

Woman on '07 Ring Sparks Controversy

By Zachary Ozer
and Benjamin Wasserman

The 2007 Brass Rat was unveiled last Sunday night, reviving previous years' controversy by featuring a woman on the ring's seal shank.

The reaction to the ring's design was mixed. Approximately 10 students left the premiere immediately after the Ring Committee debuted the design for the seal. Opinions varied on the general design.

Michael S. Hall '07, one of those who walked out, said before the premiere began that he would walk out if there was a woman on the ring. Yet even while Hall and others walked out, cheering in support of the seal grew louder, eventually drowning out the booing.

After the ceremony, Ring Committee Chair Pravin R. Palaniappan '07 said that he thought the presentation went well. "People walked out, but we expected it," he said. "I'm pleased with how the class took it."

The 2007 design revives debates from recent years over the alteration of the official MIT seal to include a woman. The 2002 Brass Rat was previously the only ring to include a woman, though Class of 2004's design had originally called for a woman on the seal. After information leaked that the male scholar

would be replaced by a woman, the class held a referendum which eventually caused the Ring Committee to return to a seal with two men.

Tributes to hacks, Red Sox

The bezel features a large, menacing beaver juggling an hourglass, a compass, and a diploma. The diploma floats in the air, tantalizingly close, but still out of reach. The Stata Center and Kresge Auditorium fill out the background, with IHTFP subtly placed in the windows of Kresge and a plastic cup in a tower of Stata. A shower head sprouts from the branches beneath the beaver, symbolizing the final year of freshman 8.01 (Physics I) showering night.

The class shank features the numbers 2007 and 140 to commemorate MIT's 140th graduating class. A Wright brothers' airplane flies above the dome in honor of when, on the 100th anniversary of flight, hackers placed a scale model of the plane on the Building 10 dome. A banner hangs on the dome with the word "curse" written backwards, in honor of the Red Sox's World Series victory and reversing the curse of the Bambino. At the bottom, an Athena owl flies with raised wings that form the words "punt" and "tool."

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Candidates for UA Offices Debate

By Jenny Zhang
NEWS EDITOR

The candidates for 2005-2006 Undergraduate Association President/Vice President debated last night in the first floor of the Student Center. The two P/VP pairs were John M. Cloutier '06 and Jessica H. Lowell '07, and Calvin G. Sizer '06 and Bryan D. Owens '07.

The debate drew a strong crowd, which filled all seats and left many more standing and listening for the duration of the debate.

The two teams advocated different issues, but both emphasized the importance of accountability of the leadership in achieving goals. "We want to know what you guys think and be diligent in getting your will out," Cloutier said.

"If the average student can't see something that's improved during our administration, we need to go back to the drawing board," Sizer said.

Teams introduce different goals

In the opening statements, each team described one specific goal that it hoped to put forth.

Lowell said that she and Cloutier believed that freshmen should be allowed an opportunity to move into fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups during their second semester if they have certain qualifications, such as a clean disciplinary record and good academic standing. She and Cloutier would like to discuss this possibility with administrators, she said.

Currently, undergraduates must live in on-campus dormitory housing for their entire first year, even if they pledge to an FSILG.

Sizer emphasized the need to

improve shuttle services such as the Tech Shuttle and Saferide, and said he and Owens "want to lobby to

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BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Nathan B. Ball '05 hangs suspended from the ceiling of Johnson Athletic Center while testing a rope climber, as Daniel G. Walker '05 belays and Tim Fofonoff G watch from below. Ball, Walker, Fofonoff, and Bryan D. Schmid G constructed the climber to enter in the Soldier Design Competition, to be held today at 6 p.m. in E51. The climber is designed to be capable of lifting a soldier fifty feet in five seconds.

IS&T Starts to Ask, 'Whither Athena?'

By Keith J. Winstein
SENIOR EDITOR

The student advisory committee to Information Services and Technology will begin to discuss the future of student computing today.

"It's an opening of a larger stu-

dent discussion that we hope will continue for several more weeks, if not months," said Phillip D. Long, who represents MIT's Academic Computing group on the committee, formally known as the IS&T Student Technology Advisory Board.

"The discussion tomorrow is to get the students around the table," he said, "to begin the conversation in terms of what the student interests are in terms of aspects of

Athena, Page 13

A 'Bad Taste' That's Good

By Zachary Ozer
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Let me begin by saying that I'm not a fan of a capella. This is not a result of some sort of inherent dislike for it, but rather the quality of the a capella I've seen. There is a lot of mediocre a capella and very little good a capella, probably because there are few professional a capella groups. Consider the difference between *The Tech* and *The New York Times*; between MITSO and the BSO; between the UA and the federal government: It's being done by students who, although dedicated, have other priorities.

So, I wasn't planning on going to Bad Taste. I figured it would just be another concert with bad skits and soloists who you wished didn't sing so quietly, but who can't sing loudly enough to fill a room. Fortunately, a quick check of my list of things to do revealed that I had reserved Saturday night for partying with a very select group of people, all of whom were going to the concert. Rather than rebel, I went with it — and I'm glad I did.

It all began around 10:15 p.m. Apparently, I was running late for an 11:00 concert. The line began at 10-250 and stretched down the Infinite and around the corner into Building 3. Not willing to stand up for the duration of the concert, I did what every good socialite would do — I crowd surfed. In this context, crowd surfing did not translate into jumping onto a crowd of freshman tooling away at their 8.02 pset while they waited, but rather, socializing my way through the line.

Several minutes before 11, security let the crowd into the lecture hall. As we began moving, someone rushed passed us carrying a box of TP. As we arrived at 10-250, we noticed CPs had intercepted the insurgent and confiscated his munitions. As luck would have it, the police were quite clumsy in their confiscation of the material, and I managed to grab a couple of rolls of TP and a pack of Athena paper.

After a mad dash up the stairs, we grabbed some seats in the nose-

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CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Jackie Aling serves himself a traditional Sri Lankan meal at the Tsunami Fundraising Dinner, held in Walker Memorial on Monday, Feb. 28. The event was sponsored by the Sri Lankan Students' Association and featured speakers who recently returned from volunteering in Sri Lankan communities suffering from the December tsunami.

OPINION

MIT students discuss gender roles, in science and in relationships.

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Comics

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NEWS

Yale report finds slow increase in numbers of minorities and women in Ivy League universities' faculties.

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WORLD & NATION

States Resist Bush's Appeal For Fast Medicaid Deal

By Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush told governors Monday that he wanted to work with them to rein in the soaring cost of Medicaid, the health insurance program for more than 50 million low-income people. But governors said they were far from reaching an agreement with the White House.

"We want Medicaid to work," Bush told the governors, who were visiting the White House as part of their winter conference. "We also recognize that the system needs to be reformed, and we want to work with you to do so."

Administration officials said they had hoped for an agreement this week, to provide guidance to Congress as it drafts a blueprint for federal spending.

Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association, said "The administration was anxious for an agreement by Tuesday. But we are not near agreement. We are not ready by any means to reach an agreement."

Gov. Mark Warner of Virginia, a Democrat who is chairman of the National Governors Association, said state officials believed Medicaid was unsustainable in its current form.

Indonesia Welcomes U.S. Plan To Resume Training Its Military

By Jane Perlez
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Indonesia welcomed a plan by the Bush administration to restore a military training program that was canceled 13 years ago, saying on Monday that it opened the door to a new era between the two nations.

"Because of the very fundamental nature of the changes in Indonesia, this should be the best of times in U.S.-Indonesian relations," said Marty Natalegawa, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. "It would be ironic if we were to look back and see happier times with the United States when Indonesia was run by an autocrat."

Natalegawa was referring to the three decades of authoritarian rule by Gen. Suharto, which ended in 1998.

The State Department announced over the weekend that the Indonesian government's cooperation with an FBI investigation into the deaths of two American teachers in Papua Province in 2002 had been great enough to warrant the resumption of military ties.

Under the new administration policy, Indonesia will be reinstated in the Pentagon's international military education and training program, which allows for combat training of selected officers in the United States. Congressional approval, which is required, is considered a formality, officials said.

Ebbers' Worldcom Defense: I Knew Nothing

By Ken Belson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bernard J. Ebbers, the former WorldCom chief executive once hailed as one of the most brilliant telecommunications entrepreneurs ever, told a packed courtroom on Monday, "I don't know about technology and I don't know about finance and accounting."

In taking the stand in his own defense, Ebbers displayed a folksy innocence that was part of the defense's effort to cast him as someone who relied on others with greater expertise to handle the details of running WorldCom as it grew from a small regional reseller of phone services to one of the largest companies in American industry.

Under questioning by his lawyer, Reid Weingarten, Ebbers also disputed the prosecution's star witness, Scott D. Sullivan, WorldCom's former chief financial officer, who testified that Ebbers directed the fraud.

Prime Minister Steps Down In Lebanon amid Obstacles

By Hassan M. Fattah
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Lebanon's prime minister, Omar Karami, resigned from office on Monday, dissolving the country's pro-Syrian government and setting the stage for an intense struggle over the relationship between Syria and Lebanon.

The surprise resignation came as the streets of Beirut were filled with tens of thousands of flag-waving protesters and hours after a grueling no-confidence debate in the Lebanese Parliament. Pressure on both the government and Syria has risen steadily since the car-bomb assassination of Rafik Hariri, the former prime minister, two weeks ago, for which government opponents blame Syria.

The Lebanese opposition has demanded a full investigation of Hariri's assassination, the resignation of the government, and an immediate pullout of Syria's 14,000 troops from Lebanon. Opposition leaders say they have consciously imitated the popular uprising in Ukraine, where demonstrators forced the government to call a new election after accusations of corruption.

Marches over the past two weeks here culminated in a huge demonstration at Martyr's Square on Monday in open defiance of an Interior Ministry order against the gathering, as the parliamentary session began.

Lebanese soldiers circled much of the city center with barbed wire and barricades on Sunday evening to block the Monday demonstration, but to little avail.

Syria has been under intense American pressure because of its support for anti-Israel terrorism and for what Washington says is its tolerance of wanted former Iraqi officials taking refuge in Syria. In addition, the Bush administration has pressed for Syrian troops to leave Lebanon.

Lebanese opposition leaders say they feel that the Damascus government is more vulnerable than ever and that this is the moment to act, especially as Lebanon's wary communities of Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims, Christians and Druse have grown more united in their demands for the Syrians to leave.

Karami, a Syria loyalist, announced his resignation in a terse statement as Parliament reconvened debate on the confidence measure. "Out of concern that the govern-

ment does not become an obstacle to the good of the country, I announce the resignation of the government I had the honor to lead," he said.

Lebanese television reported that President Emile Lahoud had accepted Karami's resignation and that he would soon establish a caretaker government.

Karami, scion of the Lebanese independence hero Abdul Hamid Karami and brother of the multiterm prime minister Rashid Karami, who was assassinated in 1987, was defiant as he faced Parliament on Monday morning.

"I call on everyone to be patient and avoid taking their strength from abroad, allowing Lebanese demands to be manipulated by the ongoing conflict in the Arab world," he warned, in an allusion to growing pressure by the United States and France on his government and on Syria.

The resignation is likely to help budding democratic efforts throughout the Middle East. Few opposition parliamentarians expected to win the no-confidence measure, but in a nod to the growing populism of the opposition, Karami bowed to the Lebanese street.

Suicide Bomber Blast Kills 122 In Attack on Security Recruits

By Warzer Jaff and Robert F. Worth
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HILLA, IRAQ

A suicide bomber steered a sedan full of explosives into a thick crowd of Iraqi police and army recruits here on Monday morning, killing at least 122, Iraqi officials said, in the deadliest single bombing since the American invasion nearly two years ago.

The bombing in Hilla, 60 miles south of Baghdad, tore into a crowd of several hundred recruits who were waiting for required checkups at a medical clinic across from the mayor's office and a large outdoor market.

The victims also included men, women, and children who were shopping for food and walking

through a busy intersection when the car bomb exploded about 8:30 a.m., officials said. The blast left at least 170 people injured, according to the Interior Ministry, and was so powerful that it set fire to a row of shops across the street.

Witnesses described a scene of horrific carnage, with huge pools of blood visible on the pavement and mangled corpses being loaded onto wooden handcarts. Outside the clinic, blood could be seen splashed on a wall above a first-story window.

"I was standing inside the door when I saw a car coming fast down the road opposite the clinic," said Alaa Sami, 31, a security guard who had been inside the medical center and escaped unhurt. "All of a sudden, the glass and shrapnel started

coming down all around my head. When I got outside, I couldn't believe it: There were dead bodies everywhere, and blood on the walls and the street."

The attack, the latest of dozens aimed at Iraq's fledgling security forces, demonstrated once again that the insurgency still packs the power to launch deadly strikes at will, despite the relatively peaceful national elections in January and the recent capture of several important leaders.

Indeed, the deadliness of the attacks appears to have increased recently, Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib said on Monday at a news conference in Baghdad. In recent car bombings, "the number of casualties is much more than before," Naqib said.

WEATHER

March Comes in Like a Lion

By Roberto Rondonelli
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Snowfall totals for the season should now be on the order of 80 inches, as the coastal low developing during the night hours is probably bringing an additional 10 inches to the season total. This will make this 2004-2005 winter the sixth snowiest season when compared to statistics from 1891 to 2001.

From the empirical distribution of total snowfall, this season ranks in the 96th percentile. The snowiest month of March was in 1992, with a total of 38.9 inches, and the average snowfall for March is 7.4 inches. So there is still a chance that we can go for the record of 107.6, inches set in the 1995-1996 season.

After the passage of the low, unseasonably cold temperatures will remain in place as cold advection from the remnants of the low will continue towards the end of the week. More snow is still possible during the week-end.

Extended Forecast

Today: Snow in the morning then cloudy with a chance of some flurries. High 38°F (3°C).

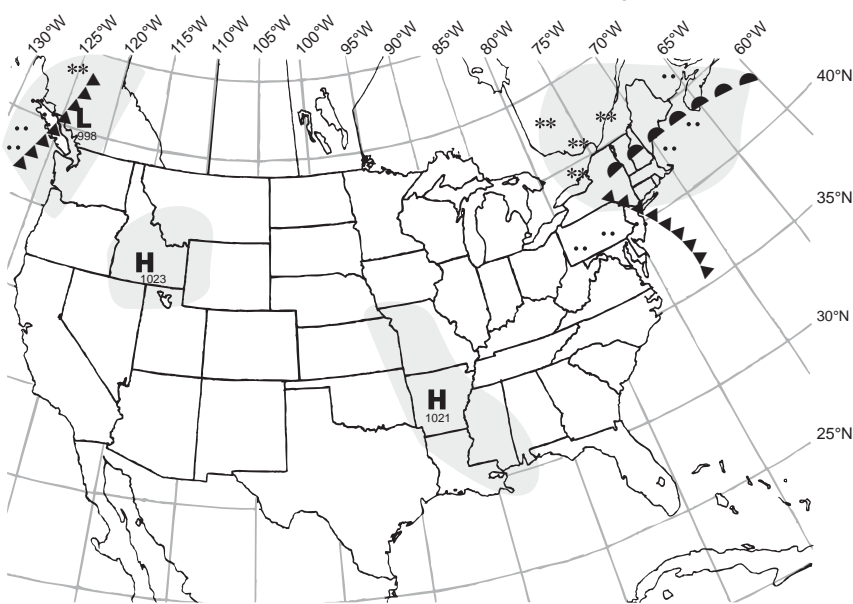
Tonight: Cloudy with a chance of snow. Low 25°F (-4°C).

Wednesday: Cloudy with a chance of snow then becoming partly cloudy and colder. High 35°F (2°C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy and cold. Low 19°F (-7°C). High 31°F (-1°C).

CHRISTINA KANG - THE TECH

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, March 1, 2005



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT
Meteorology Staff
and The Tech

Attorney General Lays Out New Goals for Justice Department

By Eric Lichtblau
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Laying out his law enforcement priorities for the first time since taking office, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales urged Congress on Monday to speed the process for deporting illegal immigrants, end the impasse over judicial nominees and extend federal anti-terrorism powers under the USA Patriot Act.

Gonzales also said he expected the Justice Department to look for more aggressive ways to prosecute obscenity crimes, and he announced the creation of five federal-local task forces nationwide in an effort to curtail violent crime.

The wide-ranging priorities, spelled out by Gonzales in a speech before the Hoover Institution, a public policy research center, were largely a continuation of the policies of his predecessor, John Ashcroft, particularly in the emphasis on aggressive counterterrorism measures.

The Senate confirmed Gonzales on Feb. 3 by a vote of 60-36. The

vote was closer than many had expected and came after Democrats mounted an attack on Gonzales' role at the White House in developing policies on the treatment of prisoners in the campaign on terror.

Three weeks into his new job as attorney general, Gonzales said Monday that he had to make "a few adjustments" in moving from President Bush's White House counsel to the official in charge of 110,000 employees at the Justice Department. A former enlisted man in the Air Force, Gonzales said one of the more unsettling changes was having employees call him by the title of general, as they did with Ashcroft. (He prefers Judge Gonzales, a nod to his days on the Texas Supreme Court.)

While Gonzales' confirmation as the first Hispanic attorney general buoyed many Hispanics, he showed no sign in his remarks on Monday of backing away from the Bush administration's efforts to speed deportation proceedings for illegal immigrants. Under Ashcroft, the Justice

Department sought to streamline the process for immigration judges to hear appeals in deportation and asylum cases, and Gonzales said the system was in need of further repair.

He said that the Justice Department and federal courts were "straining under the weight of an immigration litigation system that is broken" and that illegal immigrants facing criminal charges were receiving too many chances to appeal their fates. He urged Congress to move quickly on proposals that would expedite the process.

But Sen. Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, suggested that Gonzales was misdirecting blame for the immigration backlog.

"If the attorney general wants to reduce the immigration workload of our federal courts," Leahy said, "he should restore the fair appeals process within the Justice Department that his predecessor diminished through his misguided restructuring of the Board of Immigration Appeals."

Judge Rules U.S. Terror Suspect Held Unjustly by Administration

By Neil A. Lewis
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal district judge in South Carolina ruled Monday that President Bush had greatly overstepped his authority by detaining a U.S. citizen as an enemy combatant for nearly three years without filing criminal charges.

The judge, Henry F. Floyd, ruled that the government must release the American, Jose Padilla, within 45 days from the military brig in Charleston, S.C., where he has been held since June 2002. That left the Bush administration time to appeal, and a Justice Department spokesman, John Nowacki, said officials immediately decided to do so.

In his opinion, Floyd sharply criticized the administration's use of the enemy combatant designation in Padilla's case.

"The court finds that the president has no power, neither express nor implied, neither constitutional nor statutory, to hold petitioner as an enemy combatant," Floyd wrote.

The judge said he had no choice but to reject the president's claim that he had the power to detain Padilla, who was arrested in May 2002 at O'Hare International Air-

port in Chicago and was later accused of having planned to detonate a radiation-spewing "dirty bomb" in the United States as part of a plot by al-Qaida.

"To do otherwise would not only offend the rule of law and violate this country's constitutional tradition," Floyd wrote, "but it would also be a betrayal of this nation's commitment to the separation of powers that safeguards our democratic values and individual liberties."

Floyd, who was nominated to the court by President Bush in May 2003, said that to agree with the president would "be to engage in judicial activism," a phrase often used by the White House to criticize rulings with which it disagrees.

Although Floyd's opinion was notable for its sweeping language, its substance was not a surprise because it reflected a Supreme Court ruling last June in a related case involving Yaser Esam Hamdi. Hamdi, a Saudi who was a U.S. citizen by virtue of his birth in the United States, was arrested on the battlefield in Afghanistan and held as an enemy combatant in the same brig in Charleston.

The justices ruled that Hamdi was entitled to have his case heard

in court, saying "a state of war is not a blank check for the president." But they declined to rule on the Padilla case at the same time, saying his lawyers had wrongly filed their claims in New York instead of South Carolina, where Padilla was being held.

Floyd noted, as had many analysts, that Padilla's case was the stronger of the two because he was arrested on U.S. soil.

"The differences between the two are striking," Floyd wrote.

Although the government might well argue that the use of force was needed to capture Hamdi on the battlefield and prevent attacks by al-Qaida, the same argument may not be used in the case of Padilla, who was "arrested in a civilian setting such as a United States airport."

Padilla's "alleged terrorist plans were thwarted at the time of his arrest," the judge wrote, adding, "There were no impediments whatsoever to the government bringing charges against him for any one or all of the array of heinous crimes that he has been effectively accused of committing."

If the government loses on appeal, it would have to release Padilla or charge him with criminal acts.

Over 700 Scientists Join in Petition Opposing U.S. Germ Research Policy

By Scott Shane
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

More than 700 scientists sent a petition on Monday to the director of the National Institutes of Health protesting what they said was the shift of tens of millions of dollars in federal research money since 2001 away from pathogens that cause major public health problems to obscure germs the government fears might be used in a bioterrorist attack.

The scientists, including two Nobel Prize winners and a biologist who will receive the National Medal of Science from President Bush this month, say grants for research on the bacteria that cause anthrax and five other diseases that are rare or nonexistent in the United States have increased fifteen-fold since 2001.

Over the same period, grants to study bacteria not associated with bioterrorism, including those causing diseases like tuberculosis and syphilis, have decreased 27 percent,

the petition said.

The letter, which has been circulated among scientists for several weeks, was sent on Monday to Dr. Elias Zerhouni, the director of the institutes, and was posted on Science magazine's Web site.

"The diversion of research funds from projects of high public-health importance to projects of high biodefense but low public-health importance represents a misdirection of NIH priorities and a crisis for NIH-supported microbiologist research," the letter said.

The letter was signed by 758 scientists who have received grants from the institutes or have served on panels helping to distribute them in the fields of bacteriology and mycology, the study of fungi.

Scientists specializing in viruses were not asked to sign because their grants are handled separately, but some virologists have expressed interest in organizing a similar petition, said Richard H. Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers Universi-

ty who was the primary organizer of the petition.

"A majority of the nation's top microbiologists — the very group that the Bush administration is counting on to carry out its biodefense research agenda — dispute the premises and implementation of the biodefense spending," Ebright said in an interview.

Zerhouni declined through a spokesman to comment on the letter. But Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which controls about 95 percent of the institutes' biodefense research spending, said the petition's signers were mistaken on several points.

He said the \$1.5 billion a year the administration decided to spend on biodefense research starting in 2003 was new money and was not taken from existing NIH programs. Moreover, he said, much of the biodefense research should also help protect against natural emerging disease threats.

With New Chief, Uruguay Veers Left

By Larry Rohter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

When tiny Uruguay inaugurates its new president here on Tuesday, it will make a clear break with the country's past. After 150 years in which two moderate parties alternated in power, Uruguay's five million people will have turned decisively to the left.

But more than that, the moment is fraught with symbolism for the region. Uruguay's shift consolidates what has become the new leftist consensus in South America. Three-quarters of the region's 355 million people are now governed by left-leaning leaders, all of whom have emerged in the last six years to redefine what the left means today.

They are not so much a red tide as a pink one. Doctrinaire socialism carries the day far less than pragmatism, an important change in tone and policy that makes this political moment decidedly new.

From Brazil to Argentina to Ecuador and Venezuela, while demonstrating important differences in style and substance, these new leaders are united in their conviction that the free-market reforms of the 1990s have failed and by a renewed focus on egalitarianism and social welfare, but not to the point where it breaks the bank.

They are sympathetic to the symbols and rhetoric of the left's revolutionary past, cozy with Fidel Castro, and frequently anti-American in their talk, but they continue to pursue economic policies that are favorable to American interests and sensitive to perceptions of Wall Street. None, for instance, would even think of nationalizing foreign-owned companies, as both Castro and Salvador Allende of Chile once did.

Rice Urges Palestinians To Dismantle Terror Groups

By Joel Brinkley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, traveling to an international conference on aiding the Palestinian authority, warned Palestinian leaders on Monday that they had better come prepared to show a clear resolve to break up terrorist groups.

Speaking to reporters aboard her plane on the way here, Rice lamented the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv on Friday that killed five Israelis, and then said it was time for the Palestinians "to begin dismantling the terrorist infrastructure. That is what I will be looking for."

She also said the event was "an important opportunity for the Palestinians to demonstrate how they plan to carry out economic reforms."

Tony Blair, the British prime minister, is playing host for the conference on Tuesday, and in talks with President Bush last year he urged the United States to attend. Israel was not invited; the conference, attended by representatives from the United Nations, the European Union, and more than a dozen nations, was to be dedicated to helping the Palestinians improve their government and security structures.

But Rice's remarks suggested that, after the bombing last week, the tenor of the meeting had changed. Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian leader, has tried to curb attacks on Israelis by persuading the various Palestinian groups to observe a cease-fire — rather than trying to dismantle them, as Israel has urged.

U.S. Details Iraq's Human Rights Abuses in 2004

By Brian Knowlton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The State Department on Monday detailed an array of human rights abuses last year by the Iraqi government, including torture, rape and illegal detentions by police officers and functionaries of the interim administration that took power in June.

In the Bush administration's bluntest description of human rights transgressions by the U.S.-supported government, the report said the Iraqis "generally respected human rights, but serious problems remained" as the government and U.S.-led foreign forces fought a violent insurgency. It cited "reports of arbitrary deprivation of life, torture, impunity, poor prison conditions — particularly in pretrial detention facilities — and arbitrary arrest and detention."

The lengthy discussion came in a chapter on Iraq in the department's annual report on human rights, which pointedly criticized not only countries that have been found chronically deficient, like North Korea, Syria and Iran, but also some close U.S. allies, including Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

The allegations of abuses by an Iraqi government installed by the United States and still heavily influenced by it provided an unusual element to the larger report. The report did not address incidents in Iraq in which Americans were involved, like the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, which came to light in 2004.

CNN Becomes the First Cable News Network to Run Liquor Ads

By Stuart Elliott
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CNN has become the first national cable television news network to accept commercials for distilled spirits, running a spot Monday night for Grey Goose vodka during "News Night With Aaron Brown."

The policy change also affects a CNN sibling, CNN Headline News, although that network has no liquor marketers scheduled to run commercials yet.

In rewriting its policy to accept liquor advertising for the first time since it began operating in 1980, CNN joins a growing list of national cable channels that run such commercials. The rest, focused on entertainment, financial and sports programming, include BET, Bloomberg, Bravo, E, FX, Fox Sports, Golf Channel, Spike TV, Sci-Fi Channel, Style, USA and VH1.

CNN and Headline News are also joining those cable networks in imposing rules for liquor commercials that are stricter than those for many other advertising categories.

OPINION



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Cassi Hunt

The devil’s advocate steps onto the podium, brushes off her finely tailored red velvet suit, and — mirroring the behavior of her defendant — opens her big, dumb mouth:

I think everyone needs to cut Lawrence Summers some slack. The remarks he made about the possibility of women being innately disadvantaged to men in science fields were at best too forceful and at worst poorly-timed, but that doesn’t mean he should be turned into a whipping boy for feminists and jaded professionals angry about discrimination in universities and corporations. Those who actually read the transcript of his speech know that he placed inherent science aptitude of women below the strain of family and the need for an intense work schedule, and above discrimination. I don’t know enough about human physiology to comment on this order, but I do know that I agree with some of the finer points that made him reach this conclusion.

For Summers, statistics that show lower performance or a lower presence of women in math and sciences suggest that there may be an inherent difference between men and women’s abilities, and my point — get ready for this, in case you decide to write an enraged response — is that this is a valid hypothesis, one that establishes a point from which experiments can be arranged, and hopefully, meaningful conclusions can be established.

However, I’d like to offer a counter-hypothesis. Discrimination today isn’t the blatant attitude of male superiority that plagued women of past generations, though, as Summers pointed out, there is still concern about mankind’s subconscious tendency to prefer applicants that look more like themselves. But the most debilitating source of discrimination I’ve experienced so far is unique in that it’s intentional and actually considered progressive: it’s the coddling attitude that says I’ve been unconsciously disadvantaged from birth by inbred discrimination and therefore deserve special consideration. How is this

Overcompensating

effectually different from a genetic disadvantage? In both cases, I’m treated like I am inferior because of factors beyond my control. I think I can speak for all my readers — guys and gals — when I say we worked our ass off to get where we are, and I for one don’t appreciate the underlying question my paranoid psyche hears in the minds of my male counterparts: would you be here if you were male?

To explain my position, here’s some sense of my perspective. I come from a suburban area of Missouri where teachers were more interested in the fact that students actually wanted to pursue such a demanding area as physics than with whether they had pink or blue on their baby blankets. The first time I felt discriminated

engineering, I’ve discovered that I’m not the only one irritated by this. Then when I checked my E3 card, I noticed that “diversity” had been checked off, and despite MIT’s much-lampooned proportion of Asian females (yeah, we had one of those at my school back home...), I doubt being white earned me that mark. I’ve almost become loathe to mention my course number, lest I be congratulated yet again on my determination to “break social norms” and “give women a voice” in the field. Blegh. Maybe I just want to smash particles together, huh?

Nothing has been more deterring to my aspirations than the idea that I am an aberration. Even MIT’s impressive course load hasn’t caused me to question myself as much as the notion that throughout my career, my peers will look at me like I am the rare exception. And they will look at me that way whether or not it is because of genetic differences between us, or just this pervasive social attitude.

My role models don’t have to have boobs to inspire me, just brains. I understand that in the past there weren’t as many women distinguished enough for the history books because of discrimination, barring any additional genetic defect, and I don’t mind the male visages — as fugly as they may be — that peer out from the first three chapters of every lay physics book under the sun. What I don’t need is chick empowerment groups barking at me about Marie Curie, Jocelyn Bell, Sophie Germain, or Rosalyn Franklin to be impressed with them. It’s demeaning that they think shouting such names from the hilltops is still what it takes to earn them a spotlight in their fields.

As long as we’re asking questions about why there aren’t as many women in science, we might as well investigate genetics as well as discrimination because the sooner we figure out what’s up, the sooner we can drop it and move on. Then maybe by the time that I hope to earn a spotlight for myself, it’ll be as an accomplished member of my field — not as a Woman Who Made It.

Cassi Hunt is a member of the class of 2008.

FUTURE MEDICAID
BENEFITS HANDBOOK

1. Don't get sick

Page 1 of 1

The Clarion-Jedger
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Errata

The article “GSC Presents Survey Data, Ideas on Grad Student Life” [Feb. 25] misstated the number of respondents who “wanted more contact with their advisor.” It was about two thirds, not about one third.

The caption for the Comedy College picture on page 1 of the Feb. 22 issue misstated the affiliation of performer Drew Frasier. He is part of “Comedy Groove,” not “Comedy Groof.” Also, the event was not in celebration of Black History Month.

Questioning the Status Quo

Amal Dorai

The recent brouhaha regarding Larry Summers has brought important issues to light, and with them, their attendant misconceptions. The politically correct “line” (rampant discrimination yields low numbers of women scientists, and eliminating it will ensure a 50-50 mix, to the benefit of humanity) is wrong for several reasons, some of which I highlight below.

The first misconception is that a shortage of women in science is intrinsically bad. This is simply not true; what is bad is when any particular person is unable to achieve their goals specifically because of their gender. It is certainly a bad thing if a young girl interested in science is repeatedly discouraged by adults until she gives up and chooses another field. Yet I consider it equally bad if a child who is interested in literature is badgered into studying science or math just because a university faculty committee wants the gender ratio to be 50-50. We shouldn’t encourage the notion that more women should be in science; we should encourage the notion that all opportunities should be available to everyone. Being in science doesn’t make you smarter than your colleagues in theology.

Another problem with the current discus-

sion of women in science is that it flattens complex individuals, with their wide range of abilities and interests, into homogenous and uninteresting groups. If there are small differences between the mean male and the mean female, they are dwarfed by the huge differences between particular individuals, such as Albert Einstein and Charles Manson. Look at this list: Martin Luther King, Marie Curie, Michael Jordan, Virginia Woolf, and Tim Berners-Lee. If you saw a 60-40 overrepresentation of men, you’ve got your head in the wrong place.

The homogenization of all scientific women into a single group does the most damage to the people it misguidedly aims to benefit, namely female scientists themselves. Researchers with staggering accomplishments often endure the indignity of seeing themselves referred to as “the first woman to do…” or “the only woman ever to…” Men don’t have this problem; their accomplishments are not falsely magnified by their gender, so they stand on their own. We should let the work of our distinguished female scientists do the same.

Finally, I believe that some of what is perceived as discrimination is actually part of a self-fulfilling victim complex. MIT is a harsh and critical environment, a fact which has been crucial to its history of achieve-

ment. Students often find themselves in positions where their ideas are dismissed as stupid, irrelevant, or a complete waste of a professor’s time. One eminent MIT professor famously refers to ideas which make his mind vomit.

When a white, heterosexual male approaches a professor and is told that he is a misguided idiot, he may try to improve his ideas or dismiss the professor as excessively harsh. When a member of a minority hears the same professor, and has heard that his or her group suffers discrimination in the sciences, the slander is often perceived very differently. Nobody likes to think that they are stupid, so if the professor’s comments can be blamed on discrimination, they will be. Thus, an identical, unbiased reaction from a professor can generate the perception of severe discrimination, which in turn yields low numbers of minorities in the sciences. The only solution is to give students the self-confidence to deal with criticism

from an early age, instead of letting them hide behind imagined persecution.

For a real example, I know of one MIT professor who had somewhat of a reputation for being dismissive towards women. Two female friends of mine had approached him for a UROP and had confirmed this reputation. Yet a third female student saw through the harsh exterior to a professor who was dismissive of everyone, male or female, and wary of any undergraduate who had not yet earned his respect. She persevered until she was accepted as a UROP in the lab and

The homogenization of all scientific women into a single group does the most damage to the people it misguidedly aims to benefit, namely female scientists themselves.

has had great research success with the group.

Discrimination is real, and it is not a problem to be taken lightly. People are right to recognize its importance and do everything they can to combat it. Yet overanxious zealots are doing more harm than good, to the detriment of both men and women in all fields of academia.

Amal Dorai is a graduate student.

Boys and Girls

Nick Baldasaro

One of the most important decisions a person ever makes is his or her choice of marriage partner. This means that the expectations we develop for the behavior of our potential spouse are very important, because those expectations let us match up what is available with what we want for our future. At no time in history has the drive for equality between the genders been stronger, and one might suppose that the average relationship expectations placed on both men and women by each other would be converging. I argue here that this is not the case — while there are strong and established average expectations of men in relationships, the expectations that once existed for women are dead or dying, and nothing has sprung up as a replacement.

Now before I get too far, I’d like to make clear that the following arguments are in no way meant to slam either sex, or to reach any conclusions about who does what better or worse, or anything else that could possibly be offensive to anyone. With all of the constructive criticism I’ve received on my writing, I’ve become a new man. There are many, many possible opinions on the following topic, and mine is only one of them. Additionally, alert readers will notice that neither Larry Summers nor sexism are mentioned in this article, so please don’t force me to forward angry emails about my writing to my dorm floor for ridicule.

Now that formalities are concluded, I’d like to construct a very brief history of male/female relationship expectations. Up until the sixties or so, the basic expectations of women in relationships were static, simple, and awful. They seem to have involved mostly things like being pretty, taking care of the family’s domestic needs, raising kids, and being myopically supportive of the husband. As far as I can tell, women that expressed traits beyond this basic minimum were not particularly valued — it’s hard to imagine a woman going out of her way to be funny, athletic, intelligent, intellectual, or really much of anything that didn’t relate to basic expectations.

Also at this time, before the sixties, the expectations on men were fairly static, if less simple, and definitely a lot more fun. The basic expectations for men were to be financially supportive (have a job) and physically supportive (defend family). Men that expressed traits beyond the basic minimum were rewarded. As far as I can tell, it seems easy to find men in novels or film of old that aspired to be handsome, funny, athletic, intelligent, intellectual, well-informed, idealistic, and much more. As far as I can tell, also, it was not cool for either sex to aspire to have the strengths of the opposite sex.

But here is the great asymmetry — while it is no longer on average a stigma for girls to emulate guys’ traditional strengths, on average, it is not expected.

I believe it is reasonable to assume that both men and women aspire to be as desirable to others (especially possible partners) as possible. Whether now or in the 1950’s, people with more positive traits (especially beyond the basics) have a better chance of getting a

good spouse than people with fewer positive traits. So as of the fifties, the relationship expectations were on the whole in a relatively deplorable state, with men on average expecting and getting only the most rudimentary functioning that women were capable of on one hand, and women being stymied in their aspirations to greater roles on the other hand. Equality was hard or impossible to achieve in these ugly circumstances, and all suffered from them.

Then came the last forty years, a time when various women’s movements succeeded in starting the great process by which the impediments to women living out their aspirations were removed. It is far from done, but few doubt that things are better than they were. As I stated before, most typically assume that the last forty years have served to bring more equality to relationships, and supposedly relationship expectations. I am unconvinced, based on four years of using MIT as a model of our society’s most ambitious women and men, and how they relate.

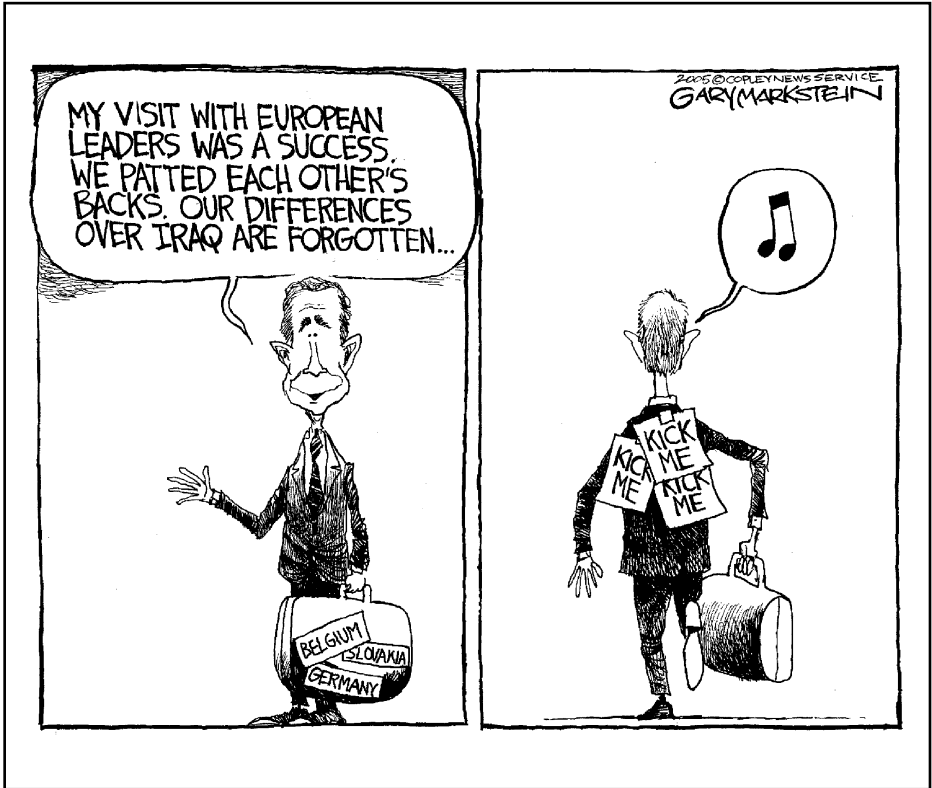
Expectations on the man, in my mind, have not substantially changed over a half-century. We still get points for being articulate, funny, intelligent, intellectual, etc., and we are downright expected to be supportive, considerate, and to do our share of providing for a hypothetical long-term family. We have even advanced a bit; it seems no longer uncool for guys to invade girls’ turf by being emotionally in touch, interested in what their girlfriend is thinking, or interested in good communication and shared feelings. If anything, these guys are in hot demand.

Few guys look for girls that are very athletic and would destroy them in baseball or hockey. Few guys value their girls being much more intelligent than them. I have never heard a guy here talk about how much he wishes his girl were up on current events and

could share insights about world affairs. Boys who act like clowns and make witty remarks and good jokes constantly are typically valued more than other boys, but few of us would think or expect to look for the same thing in girls. I don’t know many guys who place value on the ability of their girlfriend to defend them in a fight, despite the fact that girls have been taking martial arts for years. The list is as long as one wishes to think on the matter.

This can’t be the optimal state of affairs anymore than the fifties were. If you ask a girl what she expects in a guy, on average, she’ll rattle off something real fast, if not many somethings, and those things will be very similar from girl to girl. Ask a guy what he expects in a girl, and on average, you’ll get a different answer from each guy, and probably a lame one. Why don’t we hope for in others what we ourselves aspire to be? Why don’t boys/men/guys expect the very best that our generation of women has proven it can produce, if given any encouragement? No standard for female relationships behavior seems to have risen to replace the vacuum caused by the decay of the old standard, unless you count that most women here expect to get a job when they are older. I believe that people tend to grow in proportion to the challenges that are presented to them. If this is true, then everyone is missing out, and both sexes are guilty — men for failing to expect equality, women for failing to define a standard for their behavior to men.

Finally, lest I be misinterpreted, my ideal is not for women to become “men-like,” simply to embrace sex-neutral attributes as their own that were previously the domain of men only. Otherwise, men will continue to overlook positive attributes of women currently being ignored, to the loss of all.



Up, down, charm,
strange, top, bottom.

Work it any way you want in
Quark.

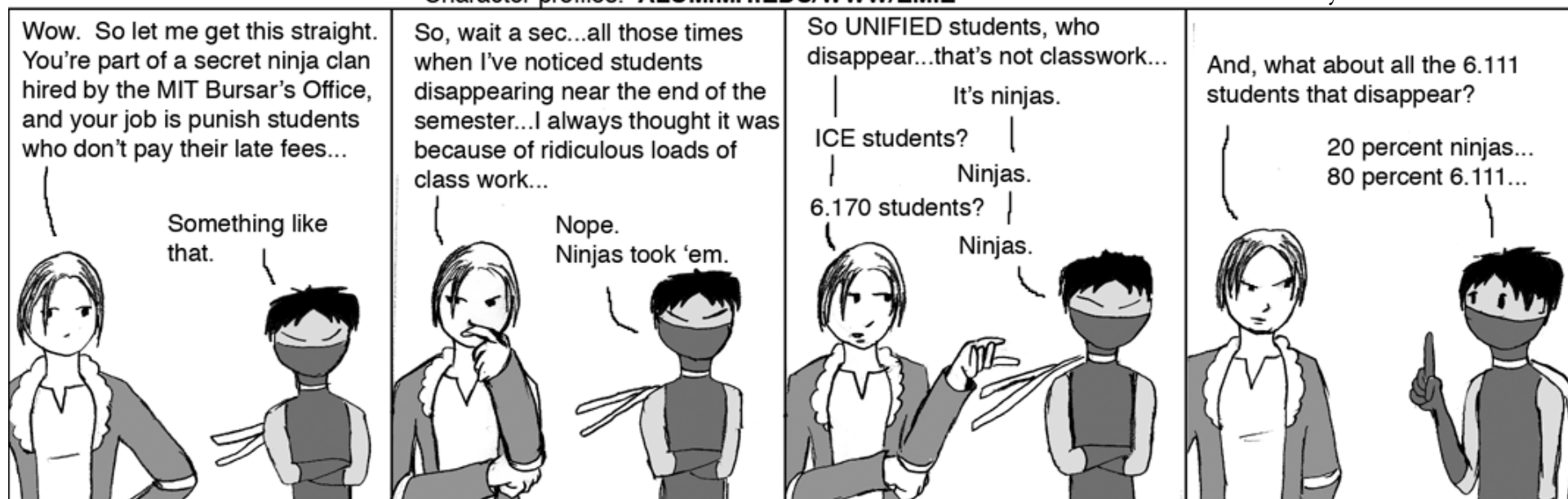
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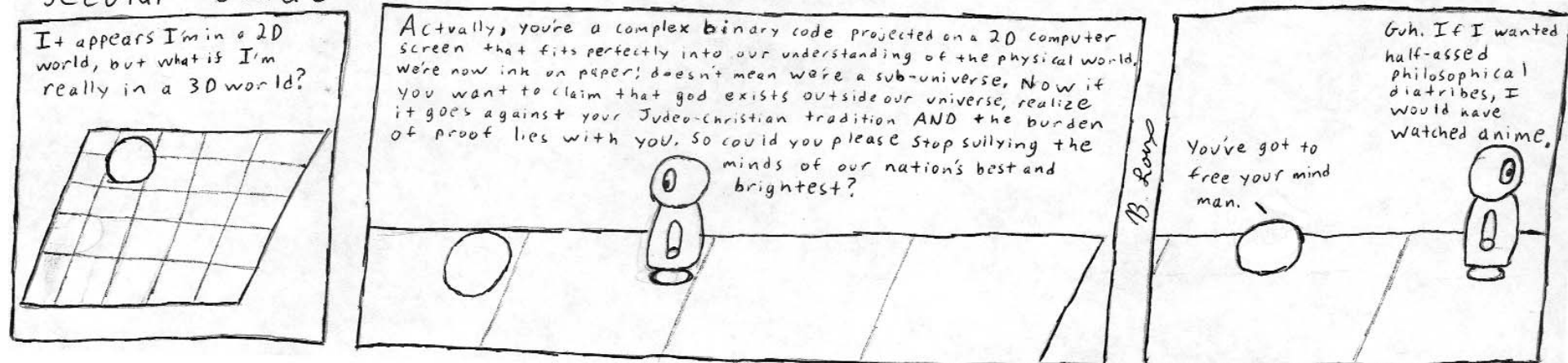
Character profiles: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



Secular Jihad

by Brian Loux



DEVIANTS FROM THE NORM

by A.K. Turza



[018] SURVIVING BAD TASTE

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BizToons

BY JENNIFER LÓPEZ



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COURSE

HEE-HEE!

...no, too whiny...

HEH HEH HEH!

...no, too henchman-like...

boy, THIS maniacal laughter Problem Set is tough!

OK, WHAT ABOUT

MOO HOO HAA!

...THAT'S IT!

vernon, you sound like an excited GHOST-COW.

Hey, Prof. Yelaud said "stress originality"!

PHD

PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

...AND SO, IN CONCLUSION, OUR PROPOSED METHOD INCREASES PERFORMANCE BY OVER 0.0001%.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY TALK. YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT AUDIENCE...

ANY QUESTIONS?

YES, CAN I CHANGE YOUR SHEETS, NOW?

www.phdcomics.com

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

JASON, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE. EITHER YOU TURN THAT OFF, OR I'M CALLING IN THE HEAVY ARTILLERY.

WHO? DAD? PETER?

PAIGE, WILL YOU COME IN HERE FOR A SECOND?

WHAT CAN PAIGE POSSIBLY DO?

WORLD OF WARGUEST?! I LOOOOVE THAT GAME! (KEEP IT BELIEVABLE.)

AAAA! BLECH! I'LL NEVER PLAY IT AGAIN!

WHO DO I COMPLAIN TO IF I WANT LONGER SCHOOL DAYS?

YOU COULD TRY WRITING THE SCHOOL BOARD.

WHO DO I COMPLAIN TO ABOUT THE COST OF POSTAGE?

I THINK ONE LETTER WOULD HAVE SUFFICED.

WHY DO YOU HAVE PICTURES OF SWIMSUIT MODELS ALL OVER YOUR WALLS?

I USE THEM AS MOTIVATION TO DO MY HOMEWORK.

IF I DO WELL IN HIGH SCHOOL, I'LL GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE, THEN GET A GOOD JOB, MAKE TONS OF MONEY, AND WOMEN LIKE THIS WILL BE THROWING THEMSELVES AT ME.

I THOUGHT SWIMSUIT MODELS ALWAYS WENT FOR ROCK STARS.

WELL, SOME DO, SURE. BUT I'D GET THE SMART ONES.

I THOUGHT THOSE WENT FOR CARTOONISTS.

LOOK, WILL YOU STOP RAINING ON MY FANTASY?!

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

I THINK WE SHOULD TALK AND TRY TO WORK OUT OUR PROBLEM.

WHAT PROBLEM?

I'M REFERRING TO YOUR UTTER DISRESPECT FOR ME.

I DON'T DISRESPECT YOU.

NOT EVEN SLIGHTLY?

WAIT. I FEEL A LITTLE BIT COMING ON RIGHT NOW.

WALLY, I WANT YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING FOR ME... IT'S IN ELBONIA.

FIRST, YOU'LL NEED TO TAKE A CLASS ON THEIR CULTURE SO YOU WON'T ACCIDENTALLY OFFEND THEM.

THIS GESTURE EITHER MEANS "HELLO" OR "I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR MITTENS ON MY BEDROOM FLOOR, BABY."

ELBONIAN CULTURE CLASS

WHEN AN ELBONIAN BUSINESSMAN GIVES YOU HIS CARD...

CRUMPLE IT UP AND PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH. CHEW IT SLOWLY THEN SPIT IT TOWARD HIS FOREHEAD.

THIS LEADS ME TO MY NEXT TOPIC: DUELING WITH YAK BONES.

KRT Crossword

Solution, page 15

ACROSS

1 Scale

6 Vote in

11 "Fawlty Towers" network

14 "Chicago" star Zellweger

15 Singer Jones

16 Opposite of 'neath

17 Ireland

19 Thai language

20 Matador

21 Stockpiles

23 Tolkien's tree

24 Skirt's edge

26 Impulsive

27 Dorothy Gale's footwear

32 Secure again, as a tent

35 Aviator Post

36 Itinerary word

37 Urgent acronym

38 Fizzy drinks

39 One from the sticks

40 Day break?

41 Muslim female quarters

42 Northern India monotheists

43 Arizona team

46 Part of AARP

47 _ Lanka

48 Exclamation of contempt

51 Greaseproof paper

55 Chevy model

57 Peri on "Frasier"

58 "Carmen Jones" co-star

60 Shaping tool

61 Gawks at

62 Steeple top

63 Roman gods

64 Browned bread

65 Superman's adoptive parents

DOWN

1 Minotaur's isle

2 Whiskey sour ingredient

3 Like some gases

4 No more than

5 Enthusiastic greeting

6 Cut short

7 Ms. Nettleton

8 Formerly, formerly

9 Heat units

10 Shrink session

11 October Revolution participant

12 Suitor

13 Field yield

18 Leopold's co-defendant

22 Psychic letters

25 Goodness me!

27 Corded fabric

28 Back of a tape

29 Andean pack

30 Wealthy

31 Fifth Avenue retailer

32 Author Ayn

33 Actor Morales

34 Those shooting stars?

38 California port

39 Towel ID

41 Lively nightclub

42 Head glove?

44 French pronoun

45 Corn bin

48 Michael of "Pole to Pole"

49 On one's toes

50 Grant's follower

51 Alum

52 Mineral vein

53 "The Lion King" lioness

54 " _ Tu" (1974 hit)

56 Bubble maker

59 D-Day transport

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CAMPUS LIFE

Worlds Beyond the Mackerel

Beethoven's Fourth Bowel Movement

By Akshay Patil

SENIOR EDITOR

People often ask me how long it takes me to write my columns. They ask with a genuine curiosity, as if this question gives them a rare opportunity to catch a glimpse into the cluttered and insensible mind of a madman. Inevitably, they are disappointed by the answer.

“It greatly varies. The fastest I’ve ever done one was 45 minutes, when I really had something bugging me and the seed of an idea of how to express it. Sometimes it takes me three, four hours. In general, I’d say about two hours though,” I tell them. Word for word. It’s a memorized piece, doncha’ know. I don’t know why this seems to contradict whatever preconceived notion they had before I had to go about shattering their dreams.

“You spend that much time on those things?” they ask in a tone of voice that indicates there’s absolutely no reason why someone with a college education should spend more than 15 minutes pounding out the literary equivalent of what they achieve ever time they go to the bathroom. In their mind, two hours is far too long to devote to something they regularly flush down the toilet three, four, even twelve times a day.

Along a similar vein, they seem to regard my mind not so much as a healthy, well-regulated muscle, but more as the incontinent opening through which smelly ideas pour forth. It puzzles them even more when I tell

them how much of the time I spend writing a column is dedicated to the pursuit of a topic, the unifying force which holds together what normally would be a parade of unrelated run on sentences which would not entertain so much as cause the MIT Writing department to commit a cult-like ritualistic suicide. And I don’t mean the “we must transcend our physical existence to achieve spiritual enlightenment” cult-like ritualistic suicide, more of the “we have failed in our calling and can no longer stand to read the regular defiling of a language which was once so pure” cult-like ritualistic suicide.

But only on rare occasion does a fiery (note how that word is spelt, isn’t that strange? I totally thought it was “fiery”) theme ignite within me, burning through the shackles of my vocabulary to burst free onto the computer screen of my laptop. On such days, the art of writing is a wondrous joy, a symphony of key-strokes rarely marred by the cacophony of backspace. Such beauty is rare, however, and the predecessor of many a columns is the blank screen and the 250 word false starts which are “select all”-ed and then forever purged from history. These are the ignoble beginning from which many seemingly innocuous columns rise, guided by the chance glance towards some unforeseen muse. Finding such a muse is a difficult task, however, one that is fraught with danger and in-flight bags of salted pretzels. It is not an experience for the weak, the impatient, the pregnant, or

those of you with heart conditions. My body aches and my ass is flat from many such explorations, not so much of space and time, but of my soul and the narrow expanse of my creativity.

But oft, the journey is justified by its destination. The air grows thinner, and the incline steeper as the column writer nears his/her minimum word limit. Strange thoughts cross your mind and thoughts of failure dance across it like insects hovering above a marsh surface. But this is where the writer grows as a person; determined not to let previous words fall in futility, the writer must reach deep within him/herself to cover those last few sentences which are all that lie between them and their summit.

It’s a wondrous feeling, one you don’t have to pay \$60 for at the Z-Center and can do within in the confines of your own room, sitting on your own futon, at your own laptop, with your own feet propped up on your own chair pointing to your own two computers. There’s a sense of accomplishment, both personal and societal. For you have grown something new, something never seen before in the barren wasteland of your mind, stripped of all intellect by the Institvte’s incessant problem sets and tests. Sure, the fruit of said growth may grow more shriveled with each passing winter, but it is still life, it still enriches its environment, and we can still chop it down, process its pulp, and print poop on it.

Breaking the Second Law

Flippant Skill

By Bill Andrews

Has this happened to you? I’m sitting in class, trying to pay attention and take notes, doing all I can to be “The Good Student.” Suddenly something happens and I’m transfixed! I can’t take my eyes off it, and I can only hope the professor isn’t discussing something of vast importance. In fact, I can’t even move. I’m hypnotized, and the person doing it might not even be aware of their actions. What is it that has the ability to captivate me so completely? The person in front of me is twirling their pencil about their thumb.

I will be bold now and state that if this hasn’t happened to you, it’s because you sir are the one twirling the pencil. Somehow you are able to bend the laws of physics to your will and flick the pencil in such a way that it goes under your thumb and back around to land perfectly in the crook between thumb and forefinger. And they say magic is dead! I first witnessed this my freshman year, in 18.02 recitation, while we were all waiting for our TA. I was content to read something (odds are it was *The Tech*), but the girl in front of me was just sitting there, waiting, pencil in hand, when suddenly she started twirling it.

I had never seen anything like this before. It was so graceful, so smooth. In one fluid motion, the pen moved from her hand, to under it, then back into her hand, and then back under. I must have been staring the whole hour. Thinking back on it, it’s probably a very good thing she never caught me staring at her, open-mouthed, eyes dazzled with wonder; she’d be all flattered, and I’d have to explain that it wasn’t her good looks but her pencil that caught my eye. Either that or she’d get a restraining order, and that’s never good. But she didn’t catch me, and I was free to try and imitate her twirling technique all day, but to no avail. Like some of the best porn, there’s some trick to it I can’t discern merely by watching.

But I would keep on trying at the very least; I’d get right back on that wooden horse. And it’s not like I’d have a shortage of examples. Apparently, everyone at this school can do it. From lecture, to recitation, to more lecture, there’s always been at least one person in all of my classes that can do this, even the HASS classes. I don’t know if it’s something you just pick up here (I hope not, since I’ve been trying to now for years), or it’s something that, if you’re going to MIT, you probably know how to do, like calculus. Either way, I have never been able to come close to twirling it successfully.

It’s not like I can ask for help. How lame would that be? “Hi, excuse me, I couldn’t help but notice your little pencil trick there, and I was hoping you might be able to teach me…” All I can do is sit and stare in awe, hoping no one catches me. But in some ways, the worst part isn’t my inability to do it; that’s just something I have to come to terms with, probably with the help of a licensed therapist. No, what I don’t understand is the thoughtless way these people do it, like they’re just tapping their fingers or twiddling their thumbs (if anybody does that anymore). Not only can I not do this magical twirl, but the people who can are completely ungrateful of their gift.

I write all this not to make you feel superior, or guilty, but to be aware. They say we don’t know what we have until we lose it and that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. So, if you find yourself bored one day and look at your hand to see you’re twirling a pencil magnificently, be proud; you might have failed three exams and forgotten about five psets, but you can do this one thing right, and it’s really amazing. And maybe, if you see someone staring at you in awe, you’ll understand. And maybe, just maybe, you might even offer to teach them how. I know I’m curious as hell.

Don’t Try This at Home

Tarot-Minded

By Monica Byrne

Come on, admit it. Haven’t you, the MIT reader, secularist and determinist, ever wondered about psychic phenomena? After all, it’s been argued that there’s far more valid evidence for psychic phenomena than there is for microbes on Mars. So why do we sink millions of dollars into studying one and not the other?

To address this discrepancy, I conducted my own rigorous study of psychics in the Boston area. Translation: I walked down Tremont Street and got two tarot card readings. So, n=2; not enough to get a standard deviation, but my research funds were limited.

Lilah inhabits an apartment in the Theatre District across from 7-Eleven. When I buzzed the bell, she appeared at the top of the stairway and stared down at me suspiciously, as if I might be trying to sell her vacuums. But in this case, my innocent-frumpy-student look was good for something. She let me in and, entering a broad pine-carpeted room, barked at someone to disappear. She didn’t turn on any lights, and cigarette smoke hung in the air. A woefully smush-faced cat sauntered over to investigate my coat.

We sank into her black vinyl couch. She asked me to shuffle the deck, which I did clumsily (never could master that slick funnel trick). She dealt the cards rapidly on the cushion between us and began speaking in an Eastern European accent, punctuating every pro-

nunciation with “Yoo understand vat I mean?” Apparently I will live well into my 80’s, I have chakra blockage in my stomach (which may have been the cheese I ate for breakfast), and I have jealous women orbiting me who are planning my demise. Also, Lilah announced that I have a fragile ego, to which I shrieked, “No I don’t, you bitch!” and burst into tears (just kidding).

She advised me to return for spiritual cleansing and candle-burning, which I politely refused. She seemed annoyed and saw me out, uninterested in my attempts at small talk. The smush-faced cat had also lost interest.

I then went over to the Tremont Tearoom, a more famous Boston establishment in the heart of Downtown Crossing. There were draped tables amidst the walls of stars, crucifixes, murals of swirling colors, and portraits of pregnant goddesses. It looked like a psychedelic speakeasy. A grandfatherly man was summoned to read the cards for me. Eschewing full sentences, he preferred to communicate in sounds and phrases. After sitting down, he immediately declared that there would be a bowling alley in my near future. I thought he was kidding, but he insisted it was true. Then he asked, “Who’s Frida?”

“My sister’s cat,” I said, confused.

The tattered cards were so old that the images had faded to white. He told me he had bought the set in 1967 and could still recognize each one. He read them dutifully: the Devil for temptation; the Swords for conflict; the Master for guidance. But greater clarity

seemed to come when he plucked goobers out of my psychic noise.

“Where’s Dan?”

The only Dan I ever knew was a long-lost high school friend whose fruit cups I liked to steal at lunch.

He also warned that if I wasn’t careful, I would conceive a baby boy around 1:00 p.m. on April third: “A good time for the ‘shower cap of love,’ muh huh huh!” He predicted that I would become involved with (God forbid) Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and possibly seek a job with Japan Airlines.

About three-fifths of the things they said were of varying accuracy, and others were dead wrong. To me, it was a fun exercise, but to the others I saw there, it’s a valid lifestyle. Actually, for many people, I wouldn’t consider it to be all that different from therapy.

Although I have a generally low opinion of Michael Crichton, he wrote something in his memoir *Travels that stuck with me*: The mechanism of the tarot is to “provide a stimulus to the unconscious mind... you already know the answer, if you can just gain access to it. The very thing that makes these divination techniques seem so unscientific is what makes it possible for them to work.”

On the other hand, if your name is Bart, I’m supposed to meet you on March third around 5:00. I’ll try to look presentable.

Can you think of something weird, alternative or downright crazy in the Boston area you’d like me to try? I’m your guinea pig. Send your ideas to mcbyrne@mit.edu.

Saved From The Trash

By Dan Scolnic

STAFF WRITER

- ƒ. To combat Anna’s initial success, Laverde’s has lowered its peanut butter and jelly sandwich price from 3.95 to 3.75.
- √. MIT’s undefeated men’s volleyball team played a team called the Lasers two weeks ago. Needless to say, MIT won.
- Ω. After the huge controversy created by Harvard’s president’s comments, MIT scientist proves there actually are “innate differences between men and women.”
- ≈. An eighteen-month-old toddler entering the Technology Children’s Center at Stata was confused for that “wicked smart freshman kid I read about in the paper.”
- π. Recent reports have shown that crime in Cambridge went up by 7 percent in 2004. In unrelated news, recent MIT graduates are

finding it harder and harder to get a job.

∞. After instating a rule that no one is allowed to stand in the Saferide, MIT successfully provides shuttle service for 2 percent of the people who need it.

Δ. Student receives 732 notification emails that his Athena mail quota is nearly full.

∂. After the completion of the Steam Cafe, the School of Architecture and Planning and MIT Dining have begun work on the Steamboat Cafe, which will soon be moving around in the MIT chapel moat.

≠. The City of Cambridge and MIT will collaborate to largely reduce diesel emission. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency only regrets that it didn’t act before *The Fast and the Furious* came out.

Don’t just read the news. Write the news! — join@tt.mit.edu



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH



FR



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH



FRANK DABEK—THE TECH

The Chorollaries annual Bad Taste Concert was held last Saturday night in 10-250. Counterclockwise from top left:

Kevin A. Riggle '08 tests out his “pimped” Athena chair.

Sandra L. Rindler '06, playing Aimee L. Smith PhD '02, prepares to teach Lawrence H. Summers '75 (played by Alexander S. del Nido '06) a lesson about the value of women with the aid of a purple dildo.

‘GIVE ME A BLOWJOB’ — In MIT’s *‘A Series of Unfortunate Events,’* Professor Daniel O. Bates '05 shows Riggle what it will take for a passing grade.

Resonance member Zachary M. Eisenstat '06 pokes fun at stereotypes about Southern incest.

Charlene Chuang '05, Andrew R. Harlan '07, and Prathima Nandivada '06 duck out of the path of a roll of toilet paper thrown by the audience.

Alexander S. del Nido '06 impersonates Summers.

Geoffrey A. Becker '05 sings the virtues of hairy thighs.

(center) As part of guest group Resonance’s performance, Eisenstat kneels before the power of Stephen S. Lee '05.

Bad Taste Pokes Fun at Everything

A Capella Concert Provides Tasteless, Though Funny, MIT-Style Humor

Bad Taste, from Page 1

bleed section on the right-hand side of the auditorium. Several seconds later, paper rained down on us in sheets. It was amazing how the idea that MIT students throw like little French girls was reaffirmed time after time — and I’m not talking about the French House crowd in the front. Some sitting next to me went so far as to say, “MIT students can’t use TP for shit.”

At about 11:05, the concert officially began with “Bad Taste” staff clearing the aisles so that there were no fire code violations (yeah, right). Then, as if Hermes himself had descended from Olympus, a lone Chorallary appeared and read a proclamation of all who would be offended by the debauchery which was about to ensue. Chi Phi, Susan Hockfield, SAE, Charles Vest, Dead Jewish Mothers, Undergrads, African animals, Jews, Muslims, and Christians were chided to much applause and cheering.

Then the corpus of the performance began. It started with a skit portraying a student contemplating suicide and calling up Nightline. The portrayal of the incessant and interminable phone tree was hilarious, especially as the voice on the other end proceeded to ask, and then confirm, when, where, and how the student would kill himself. This was all part of the recurring theme of poking fun at Medical’s supposed habit of incarcerating mentally unstable students for long periods of time without access to the outside world. In addition to this skit, there was a series of “Not Going Anywhere for a While?” ads, one of which had a student who was placed in a straight jacket as Medical personnel hauled him away. Also included was an

ad where a student who woke up in a tub of ice with his kidneys missing. While all of these skits were in “Bad Taste,” you’d have to be chemically imbalanced not to laugh.

Speaking of chemically imbalanced, the Chorallaries then went into an overdone, overly long skit filled with Course 5/7/10 humor. It felt like that took up the vast majority of the concert. It starred the renowned spy Bond, Ionic Bond (taken, not shared) who was fighting his arch nemesis Miti Chondria and his henchmen the Mecium twins (or a Pair of Mecium). You can only imagine where this went. Toilet paper chucking became violent as everyone realized that this skit quite simply would not end.

Then, at some point during this skit, the Chorallaries actually proceeded to sing. The songs that followed, however, offended me as a person not because I have a sense of decency, but because I have a sense of humor. I relished my seat far in the back where I could ignore songs like “Hairy Thighs,” an altered version of Fleetwood Mack’s “(Sweet) Little Lies” and “STDs,” a modified rendition of The Foo Fighters “Times Like These.”

I can’t really recall exactly what happened at this point, possibly because the Bond Skit’s punnery in combination with the wholly unattractive depiction of STDs and thigh hair was causing my brain to shut down, but I do remember that an a capella group from Wesleyan crashed the party.

I got in my 2 cents when they tried to act nerdy. Now, if you’ve ever seen a humanities major try to techno-speak, it’s a sad thing. So when a comment was made about a bit error causing an entire e-mail message to fail, I yelled, “You

should have used error correction!”

After that, it was all downhill. They did a version of “12 Days of Christmas” and a medley of other Christmas songs which seemed wholly out of place. I guess they didn’t get the memo that Christmas was two months ago, but the snow could have confused them. Despite their early failures, their rendition of “McDonald’s Girl” almost made up for it.

My favorite vocals of the evening, however, were part of the recurring them of sleeping with one’s TA/professor in order to pass a class. With the help of soloist Charlene Chuang '05, “My Own Worst Enemy” by LIT was magically transformed into “Please Let Me By.” The best part of the evening, at least for me, was the transformation of the gospel “Down in the River to Pray” into “Grad TA” with the assistance of soloist Holly R. Johnson '07 and the amazing choreography by the Chorallaries.

Perhaps I enjoyed it more than “STDs” and “Hairy Thighs” because I could relate to it more, given how often I have contemplated having sex with profs and TAs in exchange for better grades. This was part of a recurring theme.

Eventually, the Chorallaries ended the debacle which was the Course 5/7/10 skit. The only near-redeeming quality was when Bond, immediately before exiting, proclaimed that he would soon be chloroplastered.

This was followed by the most amazing skits of the evening. First, there were 101 meanings for UROP. Among my favorites: urinate rudely on pset; urine river overflows porcelain, university rips off people.

Shortly thereafter, Resonance showed up and opened with an amazingly chore-

ographed “Steal My Bitches,” a parody of “Steal My Kisses” by Ben Harper (on a side note, I am now infatuated with all of the female members of Resonance). Soloist Stephen S. Lee '05 pulled off the role of pimp with flying colors. There was also something about southerners inbreeding, but I had stopped paying attention because the costume of one of the members of Resonance had completely consumed my interest: he was wearing what appeared to be a shaving cream teddy. It was just too much for my brain to handle.

Then came one of the most incredible sights I have ever seen. Out walked Lawrence Summers, eagerly anticipating the arrival of his buddy Charles Vest so that they could help put an end to the media’s portrayal of Larry as a chauvinistic pig. Upon his arrival, Chuck told Larry that he was bringing in Aimee Smith to help him complete sensitivity training. Several seconds later, armed with a purple dildo, Aimee Smith appeared and began beating Larry Summers. This elicited the loudest applause and cheering of the evening.

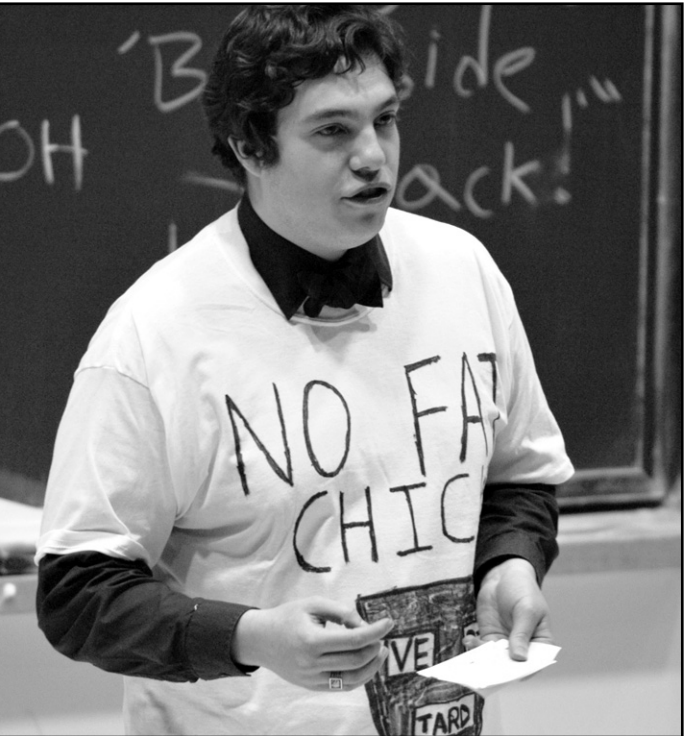
“Bend over, Bitch!” Aimee proclaimed.

“Get back in the kitchen, woman!” Larry fired back.

In the end, that’s what the “Nth Annual Concert in Bad Taste” is all about. Sure, the Chorallaries did their famous rendition of “The Engineers Drinking Song,” complete with new verses for the arrival of S. Hock. However, that really wasn’t what most people came for; they could have seen an a capella concert at any university that night. What made people line up hours early for “Bad Taste” was that it is uniquely MIT; and for most of us, MIT tastes damn good.



FRANK DABEK—THE TECH



LIANG HONG



FRANK DABEK—THE TECH

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6:30PM NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD (1968)
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IS&T Solicits Advice On Athena's Future

Athena, from Page 1

Athena that are important.”
More and more students are using their own computers instead of going to Athena clusters, Long said. “We want to embrace student-owned machines and enable them to be as useful and productive as what we know as Athena today.”
Some other issues the group will discuss, according to Long:

¶ “What are the things that we

need to be very attentive to, in preserving services that are currently delivered through this all-in-one environment known as Athena?”
¶ “What are the attributes of Athena that are absolutely critical to ensure are continued in whatever future form it takes?”
The committee has a Web page at <http://web.mit.edu/istab>. Interested community members should feel free to contact anybody on the committee, Long said.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

The Dicks & Janes, on a spring break tour from the University of Michigan, give an impromptu concert with the MIT Chorollaries in Lobby 7 on Monday evening.

Got News?

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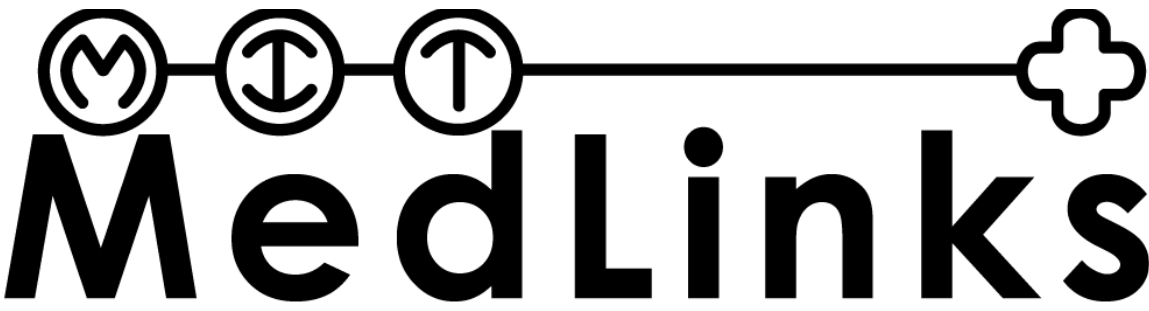
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Ivy League’s Faculty Diversity Grows Very Slowly, Report Finds

By Karen W. Arenson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Minorities and women have made little progress in breaking into the faculty ranks of the Ivy League, according to a new report.

In 2003, Ivy League campuses hired 433 new professors into tenure-track jobs, but only 14 were black and eight were Hispanic. Women received 150 of the jobs.

The figures, culled from a federal database by a graduate student group at Yale University, shows the slow progress these highly visible universities, including Harvard, Yale and Princeton, are making in diversifying their faculties.

“The tenure-track faculty jobs are where all the change is supposed to be taking place,” said Rose K. Murphy, a senior research analyst at the Graduate Employees and Students Organization at Yale, a group of graduate teaching assistants seeking union recognition there, and a co-author of the study. “But most of the new positions are still going to white men.”

Lawrence H. Summers ’75, Harvard’s president, has drawn intense criticism for suggesting recently that women might not have the innate ability to become high-powered scientists and for not granting tenure to more women.

But the new study shows that Harvard has abundant company among the Ivies.

From 1993 to 2003, the percentage of tenured black professors on the Ivy faculties remained flat at two percent. The only Ivy campus where black professors accounted for more than three percent of the tenured faculty in 2003 was Brown, which had 17 black professors with tenure, or four percent of its tenured faculty.

There was also little change in the tenure-track positions, the entry-level jobs that give professors a chance to earn permanent positions. In 2003, black professors had no more than four percent of the tenure-track positions at any Ivy university, and at Brown there were none.

“We don’t do enough as an academic culture to recruit and nurture young students of color,” said Robin D.G. Kelley, an anthropology professor at Columbia University who is black. “I could probably invite all of the African-American faculty in the humanities at major universities across the nation to a party, and they would fit in my house. And it is not that big; I live in a New York City apartment.”

Hispanic professors accounted for one percent of tenured professors in the Ivies in both 1993 and 2003, a period that saw tenured positions grow nine percent, to nearly 6,000 jobs. In 2003, they held three percent of the 3,560 Ivy League tenure-track jobs.

Women showed more progress at the senior levels. They represented 20 percent of all tenured Ivy faculty in 2003, up from 14 percent in 1993. But their share of the tenure-track jobs remained roughly flat over the decade, at about one-third.

The report, “The (Un)Changing Face of the Ivy League,” was based on data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System at the U.S. Department of Education. The Graduate Employees and Students Organization at Yale, which compiled the study with help from graduate students at Columbia and

the University of Pennsylvania, said it planned to deliver its findings to the Ivy League presidents on Wednesday.

Ronald G. Ehrenberg, a professor of industrial and labor relations and economics at Cornell University who studies academic labor markets, said that the problems in recruiting women were different from those for minority professors. Ehrenberg said that studies had found that eligible women often backed away from research universities because of the difficulties they saw in combining high-powered professional jobs and family. Some may also perceive discrimination, he said.

“That is not just an issue for academia,” he added. “It’s an issue all over.”

The problem in hiring members of minorities, Ehrenberg said, is that the pool of candidates “just isn’t that large.” He said that under-represented minorities earned only 6.5 percent of all PhD’s granted from 1989 to 1993, and that the percentages in the arts and sciences and engineering were even lower. More than 40 percent of the doctorates earned by blacks were in education.

Officials of the eight Ivy campuses respond that they have been trying to diversify. Columbia, for example, recently appointed a vice provost for diversity initiatives.

The University of Pennsylvania has set up special finances to help in the hiring and retention of women and minorities. About three years ago, it began to make special efforts to bring more women to the senior faculty, which is paying off.

Penn was the only Ivy in 2003 that hired more women than men into tenured positions: It hired six women with tenure and five men. Across all the Ivies, women accounted for only 27 percent of 117 tenured hirings that year.

“We realized that if we’re bringing in men at the senior level, we had to bring in more women at the senior level,” Janice R. Bellace, associate provost at Penn, said.

Brown University, as part of an initiative to hire 100 new faculty members, has designated 20 positions for expedited hiring, with the hope that many would be filled by minorities, a university spokesman said.

The study also noted the sharp rise in faculty jobs that were not on the tenure track at all: to 7,792 slots in 2003 from 4,266 slots in 1993. The 83 percent increase far outstripped the growth in other faculty jobs. Such jobs represented only about a third of the Ivy faculty in 1993 but climbed to 45 percent by 2003.

The nontenure-track jobs, which carry titles like lecturer, instructor or researcher, generally pay less and provide fewer benefits, if any. They are usually short-term, and involve heavier teaching loads, the report said, even though they often require a doctorate. Blacks and women hold higher proportions of these jobs than of the tenure-track positions.

The data did not specify where these nontenure-track jobs were. But on some campuses, like Columbia, some of the growth has been in research jobs at medical centers. Other campuses have increased the number of lecturers in academic departments, a move that some criticize as cost-cutting at the expense of education.

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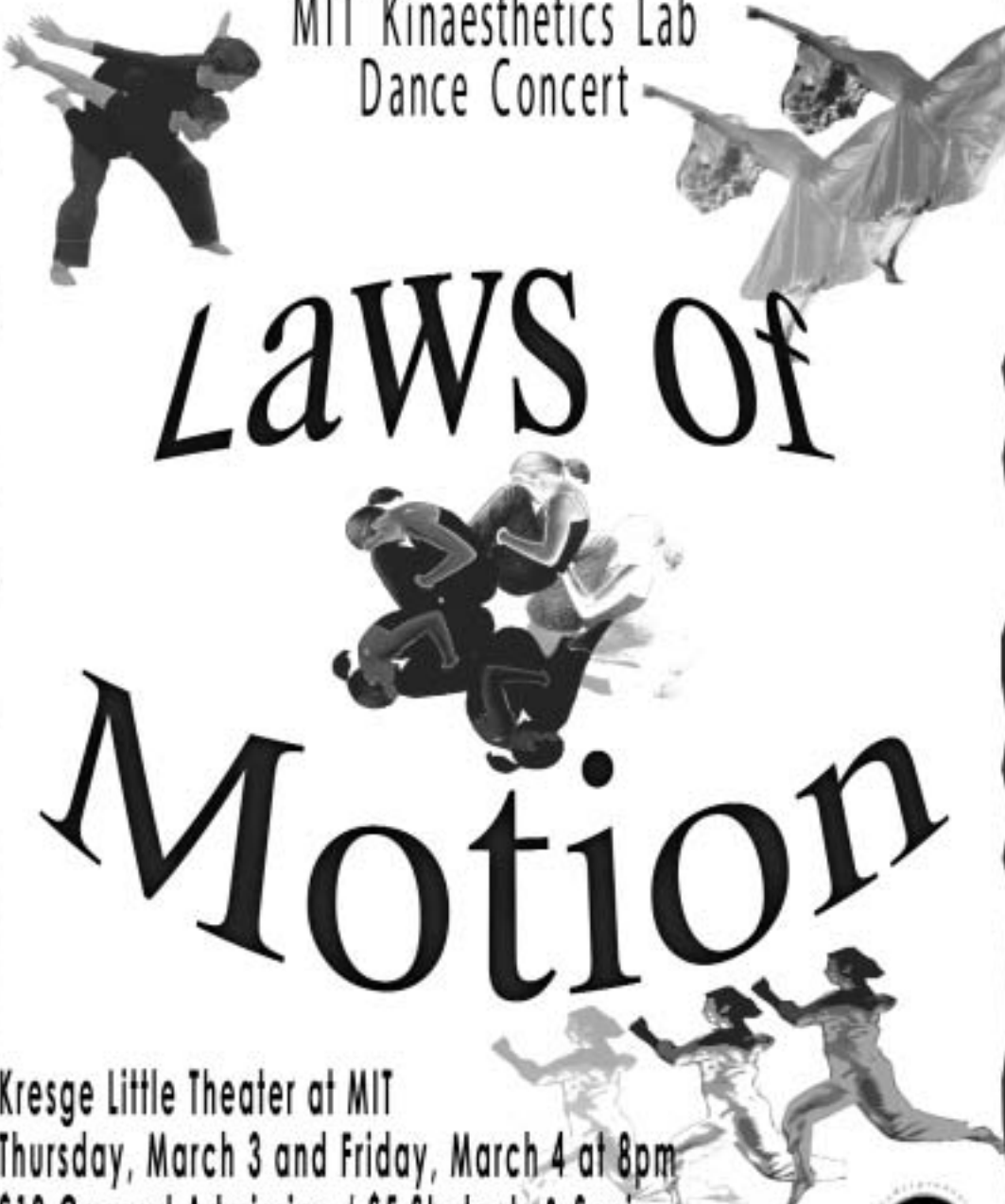
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Solution to KRT Crossword

from page 7

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<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html>

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 18, 2005 to:

Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205

cohen@media.mit.edu

Is everything in a mental health visit really 100% confidential?

Everything that you tell a mental health clinician is privileged information. This means that the information about you cannot be given to any other person without your permission. There are a few exceptions: 1) if you are in danger of physical harm by suicide, then your clinician can notify other people in order to keep you from harming yourself; 2) if someone else is in danger, then that person can be informed; 3) if you are involved in the abuse or neglect of a child or an elderly person, then your clinician is mandated to inform the appropriate agency.

I am applying for a job and the application asks if I have ever been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder. Does seeing someone at MHS mean I have to answer yes to this question?

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This is the last in a series of four mental health FAQs developed by the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) with input from MIT Medical's Mental Health Service (MHS). More questions and answers on mental health issues are available online.

Go to <http://web.mit.edu/medical> to find answers to the following questions

- i · Does information about mental health appointments go in my medical record?
- i · Who should use mental health services?
- i · How do I make an appointment?
- i · What should I expect at my first visit?
- i · Does it cost anything to use the Mental Health Service at MIT Medical?

To learn more about SHAC membership, look out for our Wellness Seminars/Study Breaks around campus, or visit our website <http://web.mit.edu/shac/>.





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-Ana, age 16

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2007 Brass Rat Design Fails to Escape Controversy

Ring, from Page 1

The seal shank departs from the official MIT seal by featuring a female worker and a male thinker with the school motto “mens et manus” written beneath them. Below the school motto, the light of knowledge burns, surrounded by a laurel wreath of victory.

A history of controversy

For the past several years, each Ring Committee has dealt with the issue of altering the seal to have a woman. The Class of 2002 is the only class before the Class of 2007 whose ring features a woman on the seal. The 2004 Ring Committee originally planned to include a woman on the seal, but changed their design at the last minute. According to the 2007 Ring Committee’s publication, the alteration was made to “denote 2007’s even gender ratio and honor the first woman president of MIT. The tradition of MIT is of progress.”

Last year, the controversy did not surround the seal, but rather the overall design of the ring and the composition of the Ring Committee itself. The 2006 ring design included twin stars on the bezel and two Greek letters on the skyline, sparking controversy about the committee’s high percentage of Greek-affiliated members.

This year’s committee featured seven women and five men. Fraternities, sororities, and dormitories were all represented, as were all major ethnic groups, though some felt that groups should have been

represented proportionally.

During the fall of 2004, the 2007 Ring Committee set up an informal Web survey to get feedback from the class about the ring design. According to Palaniappan, 700 to 800 students replied, and a majority of the class wanted a woman on the ring.

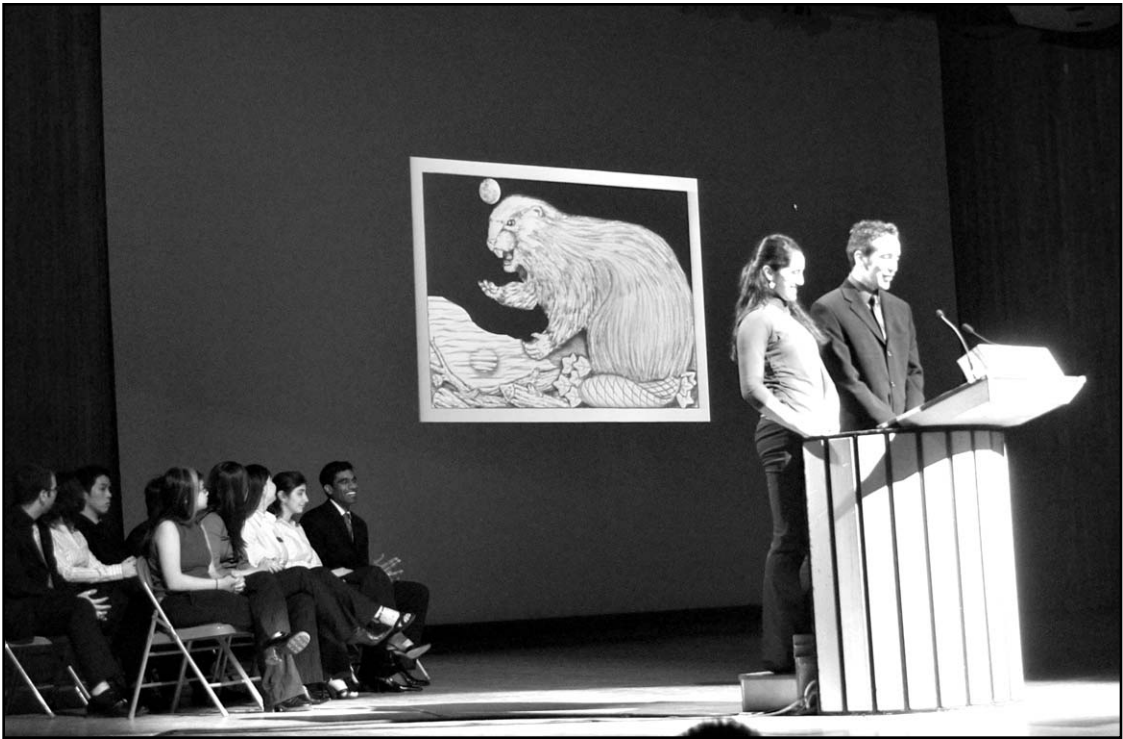
Design receives mixed remarks

While many expressed their approval of the overall design of the ring, some who had not walked out during the premiere still said they had reservations. Kyle M. Baxter ’07 said that he liked the ring, “but it could be interpreted as bad that the woman is a worker, and the man is a scholar.”

Many expressed anxiety about a woman appearing on the seal even before revealing the design. Katherine E. West ’07 said she had heard that there would be a woman on the ring. “This school has traditionally been male dominated, and we can’t just go back and change history,” she said. “It’s good to know we got through that.”

Hall expressed his belief that the female on the seal was “all a political thing based on what’s happening at Harvard. It’s a feminist thing, and they’re trying to cater to that.” He also expressed his desire to see the results of the survey conducted by the Ring Committee.

Christopher J. Coleman ’07, who walked out with Hall, said that he planned to circulate a petition and get at least 200 signatures of students who would purchase a two-man seal, then give it to the manufacturer. “That’s \$100,000 worth of



DMITRY KASHLEV—THE TECH

The brass rat for the Class of 2007 was unveiled on Sunday evening in Kresge Auditorium.

business,” he said. “We’re talking about a lot of money.” Coleman also criticized the committee for not being representative of the Institute because the committee is “two-thirds female.”

Other students, initially displeased with the alteration of the seal, have begun to reconsider their position. “I wanted a more traditional ring,” said Shyam S. Raghavan ’07. “They’re trying to make ring for 1100 people, and if the majority voted for it, then that’s

how it has to be. There should be only one ring per class.”

Others expressed relief that the 2007 Ring Committee, in striving to design a highly individual ring, did not produce something overly ornate.

Erica M. Pavao ’07 expressed concerns about the cosmetic appearance of the ring. “The woman looks weird,” she said. “She has a strange head. The beaver’s also kind of scary, but I think the juggling should be a tradition.”

Distribution under tight security

Distribution of the ring will occur at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse under tight security. Students will be provided with transportation from campus and are encouraged not to bring any electronic devices. All persons are subject to security search at the door, and intoxicated persons will not be given entry. Two forms of identification will be required to enter, including one form of picture identification.

Design of 2007 Brass Rat Elegant, Traditional, and Classy

By Ruth Miller
OPINION EDITOR

The premiere of the 76th Brass Rat was exactly what the class of 2007 requested for its ring: elegant, traditional, and classy —

Reporter’s Notebook

elegant in that semi-elegant level of professionalism that undergrads are willing to aspire to, traditional in that nothing was out of the expected, and classy in that the jokes were good and agreeable to all.

(Elegant, Traditional, Classy)^42

The occasion was good. I haven’t seen people from my own class since my GIRs last year, and it’s cool to gather everyone together. The Ring Committee did a good job marketing the “class unity” shtick. The musical selections for the event were strong choices, including Fatboy Slim’s “Praise You,” something from Kill Bill Vol. 1, and a piece by the Blue Man Group, which provided a pleasant, ambient sound without overpowering our focused attention.

The jokes were even good. Maybe my palate was desperate after seeing the Choralaries’ Bad Taste, but seriously, the presentation was funny in all the right ways. It provided a good background for the decisions that went into the ring, and since we all knew the ring was going to be controversial, the designers preempted a lot of hate by talking about the design process. “Our class is well-rounded, the ring should be spherical!” Classy.

Next, it was our turn to be “humbled” by the history of the brass rat. I have some school pride, so I’m always happy to hear about how the beaver came to be our mascot.

Lester Gardner ’89 put it best: “His habits are nocturnal. He does his best work in the dark.” I’m a political science major, and I can sympathize with that. This is quality class unification stuff.

Yankees suck

The class shank, in my personal vocabulary, is hot. Symbolizing a hack is always sketchy, because people say that they don’t unify the campus, but the Wright brothers’ plane is a fair exception. Not only that, but the Roman numerals XIX, the unofficial course number of hacking, are written on the plane, and that’s even more awesome. The emblem of “punt” and “tool” is really sweet. Even better, the reversed “CURSE” on the little dome solicited a chant of “Yankees Suck” from some off-season, seasonal baseball fans. This sucks for the Yankees fans, but honestly, screw ’em. Getting tear-gassed in a riot was a crucial part of my college experience, and even the non-Red Sox fans can relate to seeing a city explode for one day in October.

Hurting feelings

With the push of a button, the image of a girl was revealed on the seal shank. I will not refer to her as a “woman,” because the image on the rat is not of a woman. A ponytail and jumper are not the uniform of a female scientist, leader of industry, Nobel laureate, or MIT president. Sure, her uniform is from the same time period as the man she shares the shank with, but the 1800’s weren’t exactly a time of gender equality worth remembering. I haven’t worn a jumper since I told my mom to stop dressing me, and she looks about that same age, while the man looks like he could be her father. I won’t even discuss the butter churn thing.

People cheered and jeered. Some left. The ceremony continued, but without the fun feeling from before that fateful button push. For some, our committee had failed us by getting lost in trendy political correctness, and for the rest, our class had failed us with their contempt for progress.

Picking up the pieces

With the lighthearted mood broken, the appearance of the bezel brought welcome laughter. The presenters partially won the crowd back with references to shower night, a subtle cross-collegiate attack (“conveying MIT’s academic prowess and superiority to the eight universities in the Ivy League”), a juggling beaver, and the insight of our representative classmates — “a zero and a seven spelling out 07.”

There’s a freaking milk maid on it

What about the class of 2007 is represented by the image of a girl on the brass rat? Sure, we were freshmen for the Ghetto Party. We were sophomores for the Larry Summers’ remarks. Only God knows what else we’ll get to see in the other half of our undergraduate years.

What we do know is that race problems, gender issues, and questions of equality are not special to MIT. The world has these problems. The world had these problems in 2003, when the sophomore class arrived on campus, and the world, including MIT, will continue to have these problems in 2007, when the sophomore class departs.

The part about the ring that saddens me is that even in this temple of higher learning, we’re susceptible to the trend of feminism. Yes, I said trend. It’s one thing to desire equality, but it’s another to demand special treatment. Screaming for special treatment

is, hopefully, something that one grows out of.

The MIT seal does not have a 10-year-old girl on it, so why does my ring? If you want equality, ask for equal representation on the official seal. It’s more of a part of MIT than the ring. Forcing representation through peripheries, like the ring, is low. Take the fight to the actual seal if it pissed you off that much.

Mature Conclusion

There are some productive compromises, and hopefully, the class of 2008 will continue to learn from previous years’ mistakes. Why is there such a pronounced age difference between the people on the seal? Why not make them both students, or both adults? Why not make her look more professional? No butter churner ever won a Nobel Prize, became a captain of industry, or was President of MIT.

To both sides: keep it clean. Facebook hate groups, while modern, are infantile. Hate mail to the members of the Ring Committee is also infantile. No decision they made would have garnered 100 percent support, and they made a strong effort to gauge student opinions. If you desperately feel the need flame someone, you aren’t taking enough classes and are clearly too well-rested.

I remember hearing about the brass rat when I visited MIT as a prefrish, and I’ve been excited about getting mine ever since. In the two years since then, I’ve learned a lot about disappointments, and I’ve taken 14.02. The cheapest gold ring is worth 63 super burritos. Sixty-three super burritos is a lot. What’s my marginal utility for a ring I don’t especially love and just reminds me of a controversy that my side lost?

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Debate Covers Variety of Issues

Communication with Administration, Diversity GIR Discussed

Debate, from Page 1

improve Shuttletrack and make it more reliable,” add more shuttles to the routes, and reduce waiting time. Shuttletrack was a student iCampus project to provide the locations and arrival times of the MIT shuttles. It has not operated for several months.

Sizer also said that leadership development for students is important, and that MIT needs to erase the widespread attitude that its students “lack leadership qualities.”

Communication a must for both

When asked by *The Tech* how they would keep administrators from passing changes without or contrary to student feedback, the two teams said communication was the primary solution.

The UA needs to “inform students of what’s going on,” and can “serve as advocates for students,” Owens said.

Lowell said, “the UA needs to do a much better job with communicating with students” because they may not have a good idea of the actions of the administration.

To encourage women in science, Lowell said MIT needed to get women interested earlier by talking to high school students. “MIT should be actively encouraging and recruiting them,” she said.

“What we need to do is encourage students” and let them know that “they have the full potential” to achieve something, Owens said.

Both tickets felt that the rules surrounding alcohol use were too harsh and did not accomplish their intended effect of reducing harmful alcohol use.

Diversity, dining discussed

Regarding MIT’s discussion on the possible addition of a diversity General Institute Requirement,



YUN WU—THE TECH

Candidates Calvin G. Sizer '06 and Bryan D. Owens '07 describe their vision at the Undergraduate Association President/Vice President debates on Monday night at the Student Center.



YUN WU—THE TECH

Candidates Jessica H. Lowell '07 and John M. Cloutier '06, who are running for Undergraduate Association Vice President and President, respectively, respond to questions from *The Tech*.

Cloutier said, “it’s your opinion whether or not we should have one” that matters, and the “only way to find out is to talk to the student body. If they want a GIR, we should have one. If not, we shouldn’t.”

Sizer said that although he personally supports the implementation

of a diversity GIR, he believes the most important issue is not whether one is put into place, but to understand that “there is an issue regardless of whether we have a GIR” and address that issue.

Kathy Lin contributed to the reporting of this article.

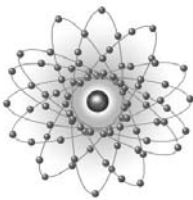
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The Production Department’s Word of the Day

Tret: An allowance to purchasers, for waste or refuse matter

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Men's Swimmers Compete Well

By Victoria Anderson

TEAM ALUMNA

In a weekend highlighted by eight new institute records, four automatic Division III National Championship qualifying times, and nine provisional Division III National Championship qualifying times, the MIT Men's Swimming and Diving team finished third at the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Championships Feb. 25-27 at home.

Despite the impressive times put forth in both relay and individual events, the Beavers lacked the depth necessary to pull ahead of Springfield College and the Coast Guard Academy. However, the men will have a chance to avenge the loss, as they will compete against both teams at the Division III National Championships Mar. 17-19 at Hope College in Holland, MI.

One of the more impressive swims of the weekend was the victory garnered by Craig M. Edwards '07, Joseph P. Carlucci '05, Jonathan S. Varsanik '05, and Grady A. Snyder '06 in the 200-yard Medley Relay. Their time of 1:31.56 not only shattered the old institute record of 1:33.76 set just

last year, but also scored them an automatic berth to the Division III National Championships and placed them as the fastest relay team in Division III going into those championships. The same team also scored a victory and an automatic ticket to nationals in the 400 Medley Relay when they topped last year's institute record of 3:28.51 with their 3:22.85.

In addition to the relay records, Edwards broke his own 50 and 100 back records while leading off those relays, with times of 23.42 and 50.40, respectively. His 100 back time in the relay, as well as in his individual victory in the event, dipped under the automatic qualification standard for nationals, as did the 200 back time that he posted in winning that event.

Finishing runner-up to Edwards in the 100 and 200 back, Mattieu Fuzellier '05 posted two provisional national qualifying standards and also posted a provisional qualifying time with his victory in the 100 fly. Varsanik's third-place finish in the 100 fly also bettered the provisional qualifying standard.

Additional individual provisional qualifying times came from Carlucci's 100 breast victory, a 400 IM runner-up finish by Calvin D. Kao '08, and Snyder's third-place finish in the 100 free.

Carlucci, who was also the con-

ference champion in the 200 breast, set two institute records in his 100 breast victory, as his time of 57.60 broke the 2003 record of 58.03 set by Bruce J. DiBello '05. The 26.45 that Carlucci posted in the first 50 yards of the race broke his own record of 27.41, set earlier this season.

The final three provisional qualifying times came from the team's freestyle relays. The first-place 800 free relay of Josiah B. Rosmarin '06, Kao, Snyder, and Edwards broke and institute record from 1993, while the second-place 200 free relay of Varsanik, Edwards, Carlucci, and Snyder broke the institute record set just last year. Meanwhile, the 400 free relay team of Fuzellier, Snyder, Varsanik, and Edwards that finished second to Springfield's team also posted a provisional qualifying time, but narrowly missed setting a new institute record.

While the NEWMAC Championships marked the end of the season for the majority of the squad, at least Edwards, Carlucci, Varsanik, and Snyder will travel to Michigan for the national championships later this month. The NCAA invites additional athletes who have met the provisional qualifying times; however, the list of these athletes was not available at press time.

Hurt Gymnasts Help Secure Women's Win

Gymnastics, from Page 20

While Springfield moved to the vault, where they scored just .025 points more than the Engineers, MIT moved to the uneven bars. The Pride had set the bar high, with an average score of 9.13. The Engineers were not able to meet that, but they kept the match competitive with good showings by Tran, Merritt S. Tam '05, and Sarah N. Trowbridge '08. By the end of the first half, the Engineers were losing by .875 points.

MIT started the second half on the balance beam and nailed five out of six of their performances, with an average score of 9.275, an eighth of a point higher than the Springfield average. Harrison opened the event with an 8.975 on her first beam routine in collegiate gymnastics.

The beam routines marked the return of DeMeo, who came from the disabled list and performed despite a fractured wrist, using a carefully choreographed routine that allowed her to compete without placing her hand on the beam. In spite of her injury, DeMeo placed third all-around on the beam, second among the Engineers to only Tam. Tam landed a 9.45, while Trowbridge

landed a 9.35, putting them both in good standing for the individuals.

Going into the final round, the Engineers needed solid performances in their floor routines to maintain their lead. MIT began with Lara L. Hershcovitch '07, who performed to music from "Pirates of the Caribbean" and landed a safe but solid routine for a 9.125 to set the stage for the Engineers. Tran came next, landing a 9.55, followed by Trowbridge with a 9.450. Jennifer E. Sauchuk '06 continued the rally with a 9.575, and Chandler E. Hatton '06 bumped up the average again with an impressive 9.600.

Meanwhile, the Pride had put up good performances on the beam, so the weight of the meet fell onto the shoulders of Tam. She rose to the occasion, performing to the music from Tarzan, posting a 9.700, the highest score of the meet, securing victory for MIT.

On top of the Engineers' overall victory, Tam, Trowbridge, and Tran secured the first, third, and fourth spots in the individual rankings. Tam now holds the MIT records for uneven bars and balance beam. Tran took fourth because of a scary fall off the beam, but she escaped unharmed.

More Steroids Testing Needed in Pro Sports

Steroids, from Page 20

using steroids or somehow prove that he didn't use them.

Let's look at his comment about the fact that baseball is hurting and that we should move on. When the media questioned what we should move on from, Bonds responded very negatively. He wanted to avoid the issue. Bonds should have come out and said something about steroids.

But take a second to think: what are we hurting from? Is it the fact that players have cheated in hitting homeruns in the past? That they have won MVPs while taking steroids?

Perhaps that is what we are hurting from: the records that we have

marveled at over the course of all these years have been a fabrication and are as real as a WWE fight.

Yes, baseball is hurting, and we do need to move forward. It's about time we legitimize the game once again. Baseball should no longer be marred by the players' dishonesty, whether they be Bonds, Jose Canseco, or Ken Caminiti.

Heavier testing. More frequent testing. Off-season testing. These are a good start to fixing the problem.

As fans, we do want to see homeruns. Just like we didn't want to see cork in Sammy Sosa's bat, though, we also don't want to see the creams and the clears in the Barry Bonds of the world.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 1

Varsity Men's Volleyball vs. Wentworth

Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 2

Varsity Women's Gymnastics vs. Eastern Michigan and Boston University

du Pont Gymnasium, 7 p.m.

The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions— indiscriminately. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is readily treatable, only 1 in 5 ever seeks treatment. Why do so many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there's the lack of awareness of depression— as an illness and as the threat that it is to each and every one of us. Second, there's the unwarranted negative stigma attached to it. You know, the 'mental' thing. It's time to collectively face depression. To know it's an illness, not a weakness. And it's a challenge that's long overdue. It's taken too many of us already.

**UNTREATED
DEPRESSION**

**UNTREATED
DEPRESSION**
#1 Cause of Suicide

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Happy Tuesday!

SPORTS

NEWMAC Men's Swimming and Diving



The MIT Men's swim team competed last weekend in the NEWMAC Swimming Championship at the Zesiger Center pool. From the top: The MIT Women's swim team shows its team spirit as they watch the men's team compete.

Nicholas O. Sidelnik '05 swims in the 400-yard individual medley. Sidelnik placed fourth behind second place Calvin D. Kao '08.

Craig M. Edwards '07 swims to a first place finish in the 100-yard backstroke. Edwards, one of the fastest swimmers in the nation, will compete in the NCAA Swimming Championships.

Jonathan S. Varsanik G swims the third leg of MIT's men's 400-yard medley relay.

Women's Ice Hockey Has Its Best Season

By Travis Johnson
STAFF WRITER

MIT Women's Ice Hockey wrapped up the best season in its six year history Saturday with wins against both Rutgers and Babson's Club teams.

The Engineers' final record against varsity teams was 3-13, impressive considering their first win ever as a varsity team was last season.

The future looks brighter as the team's core players, including the leader in both goals and points, Amanda P. Hunter '07, will be back for another year.

A big gap will be left in the net, however, as Regina M. Sullivan '05 is graduating. Coach Julie Sasner said Sullivan "should win goalies of

the year," and the stats back her up: Sullivan recorded the first shutout in program history against Castleton State and made over 60 saves on four occasions.

MIT played five games against club teams this weekend, including the two on Friday. MIT won four of these five games, including a match against the MIT Club team. Beating MIT's club is another sign of progress, as the club team has a 25 year history and outplayed the varsity team until two years ago.

The 2004-2005 campaign was also a landmark in that MIT scored 24 goals, higher than their previous record of 16, set last year.

All that's left for this season is the Alumnae Game this Saturday at 12:00 p.m., as both Club and Varsity alums square off with current team members.

MIT Gymnastics Team Pulls Last-Minute Win

By Caitlin L. Murray
STAFF WRITER

The MIT women's gymnastics team eked out an amazing last-minute win against Springfield College on Saturday.

After early mistakes on the vault and bars, the Engineers fought tooth-and-nail with superb performances on the vault and floor exercises. By the end, they had registered the second-best performance in the history of MIT women's gymnastics.

The odds were against the Engineers going into Saturday's competition. The team is half the size of the Springfield Pride. Captain Whitney E. Watson G has been sidelined with a rib injury since last spring. Sophia L. Harrison '08 has a torn tricep, and Francesca E. DeMeo '06 has a fractured wrist. Yet Harrison and DeMeo still com-

peted in events, with routines choreographed around their injuries.

With this meet, the Engineers recorded their second win in a row. The team is eight out of sixteen in the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association. But the Engineers are pulling themselves together as they head toward the post-season. This meet marked DeMeo's and Harrison's returns, and Watson was back with an exhibition floor routine.

After the opening rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, sung by Assistant Coach Eduardo Ovalle, the Engineers began the meet on vault, while the Pride took to the uneven bars. The Engineers opened with the simplest vaults, landing scores of 8.25 and 8.65, and worked up to a vault by Ashley T. Tran '07 to close the event with a 9.325.

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Barry Bonds Should Tell The Truth about Steroids

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

It has been an eventful winter in baseball. A perfect pitcher moved to an almost-dynasty, a six-tool player took way too much money to go somewhere nobody really expected, and a declining Cubby turned into an Oriole. The biggest story of the winter season, though, has been that of steroids.

First and foremost on everyone's mind is whether or not Barry Bonds took steroids. Did he do it? Did he know what he was doing? For how long did he do it?

Bonds won't answer these questions. The media won't stop asking them. Will we ever find out the truth? Many believe that Bonds' leaked grand jury testimony is in fact truthful, but Bonds has been less than candid about what he has done.

Bonds is taking a completely different route than Jason Giambi did when his testimony was published. After the public found out about Giambi's steroid use, he came out and apologized to everyone. He admitted what he had done and wanted the public to know how sorry he felt about the entire situation. He is also in the process of rebuilding better faith with the fans and with his teammates. Giambi wants to fix what he helped to break and wants to fit into an honest culture again.

Bonds, on the other hand, is taking the "I'm not going to tell you anything and I'm going make you look stupid" approach to the steroids issue. He calls the steroids questions "reruns," because the media has talked about it so much and he insists that the media is simply trying to make a bigger story about it than it actually is.

But in making a joke of the situation, Bonds is actually making himself less credible. Why would you dance around the topic if you had nothing to hide? Bonds seems like he has a lot to hide. He has used all of his tricks in avoiding all the big questions.

For example, at one point during the press conference last week, he verbally attacked a media member, calling that person a liar. The person had stated that Stan Conte, the San Francisco Giants' trainer, had informed him of Bonds' plans to return in a Mar. 15 exhibition game. Bonds claimed that conversation never could have happened and just moved on to the next question.

At another point during the press conference, he claimed that all media members have lied in their stories. He said that they should clean their closets before they do digging into Bonds'.

Even though there is almost no way of ever finding out the truth, Bonds should set the record straight. Rather than dancing around the issue, he should either admit to

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